

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Homophobe Talk Show Bought by Gay-Owned TV Station

Wally George Will Be TV20 Regular

by Allen White

"Shoot Queers" screamed out from signs, homophobe Wally George called Gays "perverts," and Gay television owner James Gabbert had launched his newest show last Saturday night on Channel 20. Called "Hot Seat," the show originates from Orange County and is hosted by a controversial Southern California media personality, Wally George.

Last Saturday night's shocker was the first in a series of shows which next will feature the head of the American Nazi Party on Gabbert's Channel 20. Primary guests last Saturday night were a Mistress X, who runs a bondage dungeon in Hollywood, and a Jamaican psychic.

The most emotionally violent part of the program came when portions of a Wally George rally were shown. In the segment the man calls for the "nuking" of Jane Fonda, suggests that California has had enough of Jerry Brown, and then lashes into Gays. Regarding Gays, Wally George said, "They can do anything they want to do but don't

have them ask for our stamp of approval. They are a bunch of perverts." At that point the college age audience screams with approval and the camera zooms in on a sign which says "Kill Queers," surrounded by waving fists.

The scary show is the first in a series that the local Gay television station owner will be airing. As the first show ran last weekend, spokespersons for the station said that Gabbert was out of town in Mexico. There was no concern shown by the station that the show might incite anti-Gay violence.

Concern over Wally George began to be raised last Friday

when he appeared on the KPIX "People Are Talking" show. Upon being introduced, his opening line was that San Francisco used to be called "the golden city by the bay." "Now," he said, "it is called the Gay capital." "Gays," he said, "have too much power and the people of San Francisco deserve much better than that." "You must accept that it is perversion." He screamed into the camera that being Gay was a sickness and not normal.

He then went on to denounce a laundry list of subjects as "filth," "slime," and "scum." He said he was against pornography because it shows sex on the screen. He then was questioned about his daughter, actress Rebecca De Mornay. The actress has expressed and George confirmed that he has virtually no relationship with his daughter, who apparently despises him and what he stands for.

Wally George, trying to appear somewhat normal, said someday his daughter would return to him. He tried to duck questioning about her film roles. Host Ross McGowan effectively tied together the false logic that pornography was bad yet his daughter's portrayal of a prostitute in the film *Risky Business* was good. Wally George said that being a prostitute in a film was just acting, whereas being in

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Spring has sprung and young men's fancies have turned to each other. (Photo: Rink)

Moon-Financed Daily Gets Frosty Reception in S.F.

Yet "Pro-American" Paper Has a Gay Reporter and a Gay Editor

by Dion B. Sanders

On April 16, commuters heading into the Muni Metro station at Castro and Market Streets were startled to find a new addition to the already-crowded gathering of newspaper vending boxes on the corner.

Similar expressions of surprise — and, for some people, outrage — were made at the northwest corner of Church and Market Streets.

The object of these sentiments: two bright-orange boxes containing copies of the new, national edition of *The Washington Times*.

Ordinarily, when a newspaper hits the streets, people greet it with curiosity at best, or mild indifference, at worst. Not this time, however. Within two days after its debut, the *Times* box at Castro and Market — and another at Union and Columbus in North Beach — was scrawled with graffiti railing against the paper's owners.

Why?

The *Washington Times* is owned by News World Communications, Inc., a New York-based media corporation founded in 1976. In addition to the *Times*, News World Communications publishes the *New York Tribune* and *Noticias del Mundo* (News of the World), a Spanish-language daily also published in New York.

But what makes News World Communications so controver-

sial is its founder: the equally-controversial Korean evangelist, Rev. Sun Myung Moon. All but one of the company's board of directors — the exception being *Times* editor and publisher James R. Whelan — are members of Moon's Unification Church.

About 60 of the more than 220 reporters and editors at the *Times* are Moonies. A large percentage of the staff are veterans of the old *Washington Star*, which folded in 1981.

The *Washington Times* is unabashedly conservative — it makes no secret of that in its radio and TV advertising. Its editorials and columnists almost every day thunder against communism — especially the Soviet Union.

In the premiere issue of its na-
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La Cage aux Folles is coming — all the while coining a bundle — Michael Lasky p. 20

Atlas to Open Unique Branch in Financial District

Atlas Savings and Loan Association (Thursday) is announcing plans to open a Financial District branch office at 110 Bush Street early this summer. The unique facility will feature a 24-hour banking lobby with three automatic teller machines as well as a separate area with complete sit-down banking instead of teller windows.

Customers will be encouraged to use the teller machines for quick withdrawals and deposits. For more complicated transactions and more personal service, they may choose to sit down at one of the semi-private desk alcoves with an account representative.

Atlas' new branch will be located on Bush Street near Battery in the historic Shell Building, considered by the City of San Francisco to be a significant architectural example of the "art moderne" style of the 1920's.

The architectural firm of Neeley/Lofrano has designed a contemporary interior to complement the existing art deco appearance of the exterior. Neeley/Lofrano also designed Atlas' new \$2 million corporate headquarters now under construction at 444 Castro Street and scheduled for a late summer opening.

The S&L's original office at Market and Duboce will remain open. The small branch on 18th Street will relocate to the new larger headquarters on Castro Street.

"The new Financial District office is designed to serve Atlas' many customers in both the Gay and non-Gay community who work downtown and will appreciate the convenience of banking where they work," said Atlas board chairman John A. Schmidt. "We expect also to attract thousands of new depositors who work in the area and live on the Peninsula, in the East Bay, or Marin County. The Bush Street location is a transportation hub for downtown."

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MD's Plot "Behavior Modification" for Tricking Gays

Half-Closed Conference Coughs Up Half-Baked Nostrums

by Brian Jones

Some of the nation's foremost AIDS experts met here Saturday in a hastily called conference to "generate new ideas for attacking the AIDS problem." But by the end of their marathon symposium at UC-San Francisco, few new strategies had been agreed upon.

The key study group — a panel on identifying risk factors for contracting AIDS — produced a paper which included information already widely circulated by Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and similar groups nationwide which are working against the AIDS epidemic.

The conference, prompted in part by last month's discovery of the virus believed to cause AIDS, was called by Gay sociologist Leon McKusick and Gay physician Dr. Marcus Conant, both active locally in AIDS research. McKusick and Conant appeared to want the experts to toughen the medical recommendations concerning how to avoid AIDS, and to come out strongly against specific sexual practices of Gay men.

"Can we come up with a consensus on what are the risk factors?" Conant said during opening remarks. "What are the behavior patterns of the high-risk groups that expose them to those risk factors? What can we develop as strategies for behavior modification?"

Conant implied that medical experts were not providing the leadership he believed they ought to in the AIDS epidemic.

"A friend of mine told me, 'What is going on with you doctors? You aren't giving us (Gay men) a clear message' . . . Legislators — those who will furnish funds for education — want clear, concise messages. They do not want long-running preambles on what it may be, or what it could be, they want your best expert guess."

"We have a responsibility at this point, given the epidemiological evidence that we do have, to say what we think are the high-risk factors," Conant said. "Those are the kinds of messages that I, personally, would like to see come out of this conference."

McKusick and Conant set ambitious goals for the symposium. "The symposium will determine what sexual behaviors are most likely to transmit AIDS, and then, how best to convince Gay men to change these behaviors . . . New ideas for attacking the AIDS problem will be generated," McKusick

said in a statement released in advance of the conference.

RISK FACTORS

The recommendations of the risk-factor panel are nearly identical to those which have been used in the field for nearly 18 months. They graded sexual practices by risk levels — from "high risk" to "probably safe" — as follows:

- **High Risk:** Fisting and anal intercourse;

- **Suspected High Risk:** Behaviors which involve the introduction of feces, semen, or blood into body cavities, including oral sex during which a participant ejaculates into a partner's mouth;

- **Unknown Risk:** Behaviors involving the exchange of other bodily fluids, including pre-ejaculation fluid and saliva. These include "wet kissing" and oral sex prior to ejaculation.

- **Probably Safe:** Behaviors which probably present minimal risk include mutual masturbation, "dry kissing," and *frottage* — rubbing.

In all cases, the study group said, the more partners with whom one has had sex, the higher the risk of exposure to the presumed AIDS agent. The exchange of any bodily fluids is to be avoided, the panel urged, and for Gay men who choose to engage in anal sex despite its high risk, "the use of condoms may reduce risk."

Needle-sharing among recreational drug users is to be avoided, the panel said. And the panel concluded that environmental factors — such as good nutrition, adequate sleep, avoiding drug use, and not smoking — could reduce one's risk for contracting AIDS.

"These are very similar to the guidelines which have been circulated in many other areas," said an observer at a review session held to critique the risk-factor panel's work.

"I think what you're hearing people say is that you need to be stronger in your recommendations," Conant told the panelists.

But Dr. Harold Jaffe, a physician with the federal Centers for Disease Control, disagreed. "If you go much beyond this, you are dealing not only with soft data, but with guesswork," he said. Said another member of the risk-factor panel, "The only thing we know certainly that will eliminate risk is no sex at all — and it was the feeling of the panel that this was not a reasonable recommendation to make."

POLITICAL AGENDA

The conference called to-

gether two dozen experts from throughout the nation. About half were medical doctors. The remaining participants were authorities in psychology, sociology, Gay behavior, and media and advertising. Tom Coates, one of the conference organizers, said, "I'm not sure, but I think about half" of the participants were Gay.

While the official agenda was medical and behavioral, an underlying political agenda was apparent throughout the symposium.

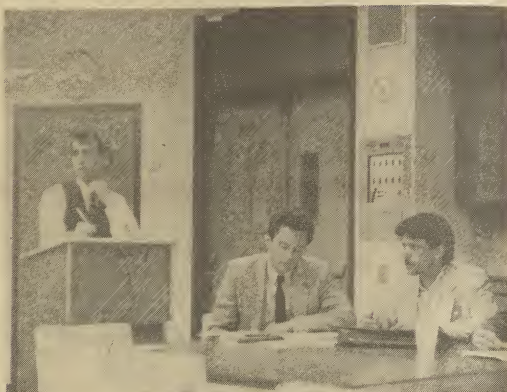
The kickoff speaker Friday evening was State Rep. Willie Brown (D-San Francisco) speaker of the California Assembly. And, under questioning, Coates said that the initial idea for the conference came at the suggestion of San Francisco's Gay supervisor, Harry Britt.

Britt is enmeshed in a controversy over the city's proposal to ban Gay sex at bathhouses, sex clubs and bookstores. He has publicly stated that he will abide by "the guidance of Gay doctors" in making a decision whether to support the sex ban, a measure which will come before the Board of Supervisors this month.

Several AIDS experts from out-of-town protested that they had been excluded from the working panels. The panels met behind closed doors, excluding press and observers.

"I was extremely disappointed when I received a notice for this conference," said Frederico Gonzalez, director of education for the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City. "We were not consulted, and we have long been in the vanguard of dealing with the AIDS epidemic. The way this was handled — it was ugly."

The Gay Men's Health Crisis is the nation's oldest and largest organization fighting the AIDS epidemic. Last month its board passed a resolution opposing the San Francisco city proposal to



Sex ban triumvirate — Doctors Conant, McKusick, and Bolan. (Photo: Rink)

ban Gay sex. The group said the measure would violate civil rights, and would hinder — not promote — efforts to alter risky behavior of Gay men.

Gonzalez was among a half-dozen AIDS experts who flew in from New York, Boston and Los Angeles to attend the symposium — even though they were barred from taking part in, or observing the actual working part of the sessions.

James Campbell, an official with the local Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, said, "I am deeply concerned about this conference. It is not a community involvement project. And we know that what begins as a program here today, ends in legislation later."

Conference organizer Coates said, "It is not the intention of this conference to play the part of the Diet writing the tablets on Mount Sinai."

That statement prompted disagreement from most of the experts who had been excluded from the working sessions. One observer, a hospital infection control officer at UC-San Francisco, said, "Every time the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) issues guidelines, they carry disclaimers all over it. They may say, 'This is just a guideline' 17 times, but every time it goes to

court, that guideline is found to be legally binding." Many of the experts on hand for the symposium were researchers from the CDC.

Michael Helquist, local writer who has extensively covered the AIDS epidemic, said, "There's no doubt — public policy will result from this meeting . . . at the cocktail party I kept asking the participants about the civil rights aspect of what's happening here. And they all said, 'We're not concerned about civil rights — we're concerned with behavioral modification.' The only person here who has mentioned civil rights is a straight man — and a Black man — Willie Brown."

Those excluded from the working sessions formed an observers' group of their own. They passed three strongly worded resolutions calling for more community involvement, and a delay before the paper produced at the symposium is formally released. The group urged the symposium sponsors to circulate drafts of the final paper to persons with AIDS and AIDS groups, and that "no action be taken on any policy statements or programs — either in private or public — developed during this symposium until June 30."

behaviors, and lifestyles must be considered (in discussing Gay identity)" to "the leisure and recreational aspects of sex have to be recognized." These are definitely general platitudes.

During the writing of the paper on Gay Identity, several comments came from participants and observers in the audience. Someone said that if we were going to talk about ways that the government could help support Gay behavioral changes that would help to stop the spread of AIDS, then we should talk about making free hepatitis vaccines available to everyone. Also that the government could strengthen the ties between Gay couples perhaps through some form of legal arrangement. Someone else pointed out that 10% of men in the Gay community have used intravenous drugs, and 25-30% of the Gay men who have AIDS have admitted to IV drug use.

At one point between the presentation of the different papers, one of the participants asked Dr. Conant what the finished document was going to be used for. Someone else asked whether it was possibly going to be used in support of a grant request. Dr. Conant nodded. One of the participants added, "Willie Brown was here last night and he clearly wants something (a document) from this seminar that he can use to get state money for public education on

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AIDS Conference at UC Medical Center

Experts Concentrate on Stopping Sex

by Charlie Linebarger

"We are three to ten years away from developing a vaccine for AIDS. We have no cure. All we are able to do at this point is to develop new strategies for sexual behaviour." So said Dr. Marcus Conant, the director of the AIDS Research Center at UC Medical Center. "And we're expecting 600 new cases in San Francisco alone during the next 12 months."

When asked for statistics on the epidemic up to the present, he elaborated. "We've had 550 cases since the beginning of all this three years ago, 300 of those cases in the last 12 months. Our first reported case (there were probably earlier ones, but we didn't know what we were dealing with then) was reported in April 1981. (At that time the term AIDS had not yet been coined.) The epidemic began in New York about a year and a half earlier." When asked what the chances of the average Gay man were of contracting AIDS, considering that there are over a hundred thousand Gay men in San Francisco, Dr. Conant said, "Conservative estimates are that the incidence of AIDS in the Castro area among Gay men is 1% or more."

Four papers were drafted at the day-long conference: 1) Risk factors; 2) Gay identity and sexual behavior; 3) Behavioral and health psychology; 4) Health education and the media. I covered the drafting of the last three papers. Risk factors were covered by Associate Editor, Brian Jones.

The committee on Gay Identity and Sexual Behavior drafted a list of 12 "general platitudes," ranging from "multiple choices,



AIDS experts assemble for the San Francisco "solution" and reject it. (Photo: Rink)

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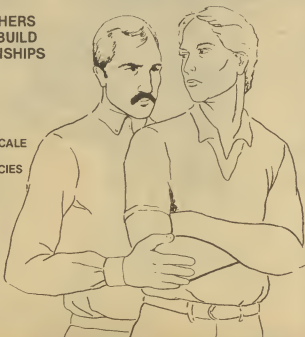
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Dial-A-Porn Service Via Card Nixed by American Express

by George Mendenhall

American Express, the nation's third-largest charge-it agency, has informed its cardholders that they can no longer charge phone-sex calls to a Los Angeles-based Gay firm. It acted while numerous unresolved legal problems involving dial-a-porn services remain unresolved. The AmEx move places the firm denied the service in the position of having to prove it is innocent of unspecified charges.

Now Talk, owned by Shawn-Daniel Foreman, has been put on "Hold" by AmEx after an 18-month use of service. Foreman is fighting back in court and is consulting with a San Francisco attorney who is challenging the firm in a similar case here.

The proprietor told *Update*, a Southern California Gay newspaper, that he is seeking financial help for his legal fight from ten other Gay phone-sex services. He insists there are no laws, either local, state, or federal, that ban the sale of phone conversations involving adults. The AmEx action results from a 1983 law passed by Congress which is being challenged in the courts.

The dial-a-porn services either offer club memberships or charge-card fees that permit the dialer to talk with another person about sexual matters. Some callers fantasize and masturbate during the conversations. Twenty dollars is a common fee for a single call.

HIGH SOCIETY TEENS

A highly publicized controversy over the talk-sex telephone

services began in 1983 when an adult magazine, *High Society*, began offering a free recording of a heavy-breathing woman to anyone who dialed an advertised New York number. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that some irate parents became disturbed when they discovered that their teenage sons and daughters were calling the advertised number. The magazine's new Los Angeles line is still getting over 200,000 daily calls.

Complaints made to the Federal Communications Commission in 1983 called attention to a 51-year-old FCC regulation which prohibited interstate calls that were "obscene, lewd, or indecent." However, the FCC ruled that the 1934 law was adopted only to protect non-consenting parties who did not want to receive such calls.

Congress moved to expand the FCC ruling last December when it outlawed "obscene" calls made for commercial purposes, if accessible to children under 18. However, neither Congress nor the Supreme Court has ever been able to define what is "obscene, lewd, or indecent" so the constitutionality of such legislation is questionable.

WHAT IS OBSCENE?

The American Civil Liberties Union and several dial-a-porn services have entered the courts to challenge the 1983 law. They are asking questions: Is any telephone discussion of sex "obscene?" What is the standard for what is "obscene" and is that standard to be determined locally or by the national government? Are certain words or combinations of words forbidden? Is the new law a clear violation of constitutional rights under the First Amendment?

There is also the issue of how the law can constitutionally "protect" children as a separate class. The Supreme Court ruled in 1957 (*Butler vs. Michigan*) that a state law could not prohibit a particular book from being distributed because it might be read by someone under 18.

Since the recorded messages or conversations in dial-a-porn are frequently changed there is the legal problem of the government imposing prior restraint without dealing with specific content. Can a bookstore be closed because it might at one time carry a book that is considered to be obscene?

One New York ACLU director, Alan Reitman, believes that the constitutionality of anti-porn legislation presents problems. So what is the solution to "protecting children?" Reitman says the solution is adequate parental control.

Gay Travel Agents/Hoteliers Convene at the Atherton

More than 100 travel/tourist delegates from North America convened in San Francisco this past week for the history-making First International Gay Travel Association Convention (IGTA).

Craig Siebold of Mark Tours was instrumental in the convention. IGTA, in less than six months of existence, drew together delegates representing all sections of the industry, from travel agents to hoteliers to tour operators to airlines. A Russian River resort familiarization trip, a travel trade show, keynote speakers, mayoral congratulations and seminars punctuated the conclave for those interested in promoting Gay travel worldwide.

The association, which has more than 200 members, elected a board of directors to expand and espouse its aims and purposes.

As president, IGTA has a prominent Canadian travel

agency owner and Gay business guild officer. Isabel Smyth, President of CHAT Travel in Toronto and President of the Lambda Business Association, accepted the mandate "to take IGTA to the world and quadruple the membership by its second convention in April 1985."

Assisting her will be Roger Bullis as Vice President of Membership. Bullis, from Portland, Oregon, owns one of the largest travel agencies in Oregon and operates a Gay division called In Touch Travel. He has committee members assigned for domestic and international membership drives.

Sam Meaker, a partner in Mark Tours and Travel International of San Francisco, was named Secretary of the association. He has responsibility for the Industrial Relations committee, which will handle ethics

and grievance issues brought by the membership in an attempt to monitor standards of its own member agencies and hotels.

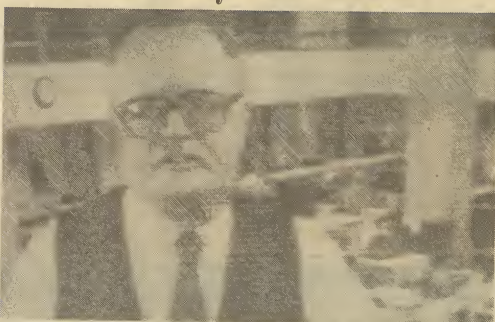
Treasurer and Visual Communications Director is Jack Sroka, Marketing Manager for RSVP Productions in Minneapolis. Sroka also serves as treasurer of his local Gay business guild. He will host the first board of directors meeting set for July 14-15 in the Twin Cities.

President Smyth told a press conference following the convention, "We are on a threshold. We have set into motion several projects to support and educate our current members and to solicit new members from around the world. We will encourage networking between members, who comprise the whole spectrum of the industry, in the spirit of cooperation and mutual success and for improving knowledge of what we have to sell. We will encourage the creation of special events and tours for Gays and Lesbians, and we will become the source for information about these trips and locations."



Travel Convention participants: bottom row (l. to r.) - Herb Harris, Dee Farrell, Roger Bullis, Mabel Smyth; top row (l. to r.) - Frank Freese, Jack Sroka, Sam Meaker.

Moon-Financed Daily



James R. Whelan, editor and publisher of The Washington Times, in TV commercial promoting the paper as "a pro-American voice." The Times began a national edition in the Bay Area April 16 — and has received a hostile reception so far.

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tional edition — which is printed in Hayward — such New Right organizations as the Moral Majority, Christian Voice, Young Americans for Freedom, the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, and others have taken out full-page advertisements.

None of these organizations support Gay rights; indeed, they are bitter opponents of it.

Indeed, the Moonies themselves are not enamored of Gay rights, either. In a 1980 editorial, the *Times*' sister daily in New York (whose staff, unlike the *Times*, is dominated by Moonies) employed all of the religious arguments against "acceptance of a lifestyle proscribed by the Bible."

MARKING THE BOXES

Graffiti on the *Times* vending box at Castro and Market blared "The Moonies are Anti-Gay!"

As if to confirm that charge, *Times* publisher Whelan ends his TV commercials by saying, "Read *The Washington Times* and rediscover traditional American values!"

But in an amazing twist of irony, at least two *Times* staffers — a reporter and an editor — are Gay. And very much out of the closet.

Last June, the *Times* published an editorial cartoon depicting a member of Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale's campaign staff telling another, "With the AIDS scare on the rise, we'll have to treat the Gay issue with kid gloves." Responded the other worker, "Rubber gloves would be more like it, sir."

That cartoon touched off a protest by 70 *Times* reporters and editors.

Times radio-TV editor Dennis John Lewis circulated a petition protesting the cartoon to publisher Whelan and editorial page editor Ann Crutcher.

Crutcher was quoted by *The Washington Blade* as saying, "I sincerely wish that that cartoon was never published." Crutcher, previously assistant managing editor of the *Star*, no longer edits the *Times* editorial page.

The *Times* subsequently published a lead editorial denouncing AIDS hysteria and calling for a greater effort to find the cause and eventual cure of the deadly syndrome.

One of the early signers of the petition was Isaiah J. Poole, a Black reporter working at the *Times*' metropolitan desk.

Lewis and Poole are Gay.

Poole was already out of the closet when he joined the staff of the *Times* in 1982. Lewis came out as a result of the cartoon. Poole, in fact, is an ex-Moonie, having worked out of the Washington bureau of what was then *The News World* (now the *New York Tribune*) before quitting both the paper and the Unification Church in 1980. In the in-

terim, Poole was a Washington correspondent for *Black Enterprise* magazine.

Lewis was a radio-TV columnist of the old *Washington Star* who moved to the *Washington Post* after the *Star* ceased publication in 1981. When the *Times* began publishing on May 17, 1982, Lewis was signed on as radio-TV editor.

The *Times* has a circulation of just over 100,000 — not counting its national edition. It does not publish on weekends. By comparison, *The Washington Post* has a circulation of more than 700,000 daily and more than one million on Sunday.

To date, the *Times* has received a frosty reception in the Bay Area. On April 23, Tom Debley, city editor of the *Hayward Daily Review*, at whose plant the *Times* is published, resigned, saying, "I don't want any part of my paycheck coming from the Unification Church. The (*Times*) pretends to be conservative, but it actually presents Moon's views."

One week earlier, subscribers to the Palo Alto-based *Peninsula Times Tribune* deluged the paper with complaints against the insertion of complete issues of the *Times* as advertising supplements, prompting the *Times Tribune* to cancel its advertising contract.

In San Francisco, The Gramophone on Castro Street, upon receiving copies of the *Times*' premiere issue from its distributor, immediately canceled it. But Dean Stamatopolous, owner of The Gramophone, said his decision was based solely on economics.

"We have too many papers as it is, and it was just not economically feasible for us to carry *The Washington Times* when it's being sold in the vending machines at the corner."

Stamatopolous added that he carries *The New York Times* only because its Sunday edition is not available in the vending box.

He acknowledged that he knew about the *Times*' relationship with the Unification Church, but added that "they have a right to publish under the First Amendment, and I'm not going to censor them simply because of who owns the paper. I'm in no position to do that."

Five newsstands in the Financial District owned by the New York-based Eastern Newsstand Corporation have banned *The Washington Times* from their shelves.

Eastern Newsstands have for years refused to carry *The New York Tribune* as well as *The Washington Times* local editions in the nation's capital. Even at the height of the 1978 New York newspaper strike, which shut down that city's three largest dailies for 88 days, Eastern Newsstands still refused to carry the *Tribune*. ■

D.B. Sanders

City/Tavern Guild Look for AIDS/Gay Center

by George Mendenhall

Behind-the-scenes maneuvering at City Hall may result in an arrangement wherein the Gay Tavern Guild of San Francisco would operate a living quarters for people with AIDS. The Guild's foundation has been searching for a proper building to purchase for a Gay Community Center for twelve years. Both the city and the guild could benefit by a combination AIDS/Gay facility.

The foundation has raised \$100,000 through various benefits since 1972. It is stashed away in a savings account and funds can only be used to build or purchase a building to be used as a Gay Center. Each year there has been a search for an adequate building and each year the guild has come up empty-handed. Inflation and rising building costs now make it obvious that the \$100,000 might not even be enough for a down payment. Additional funds would be sought from the Gay community.

If there is a legal problem as to whether the \$100,000 can be used for an AIDS-related facility, Hank Cheeke, who heads the foundation's search for a building, says the issue could be resolved by attorneys. He said adding people with AIDS to the original plan is "bending things a little." The foundation's board of directors believes such "bending" would be accepted by its members and the Gay community.

Jim Bonko, the guild's executive director, believes that a city/guild agreement is possible "in the very near future" and adds "there is definite progress being made." Cheeke states that this does not mean the use of city funds. The guild itself would do

the financing. What role the city would play is unclear but any city involvement would help solidify the project.

IS A CENTER NEEDED?

Bonko and some city officials believe that an order from the mayor that the city find a permanent AIDS facility within 30 days is unrealistic. The mayor is impatient because people with AIDS who are without funds are housed in several temporary arrangements.

Cheeke says he has been looking without any success for an adequate building. Such a structure would have to have apartments plus center facilities such as meeting rooms, offices, and an auditorium. He said the aim would not be to be THE Gay

center but to complement other facilities now being used by Gay services and organizations.

Is the "Gay center" aspect of the guild's proposed project needed at all? Cheeke said the guild has not addressed the question of whether a meeting and office facility was actually needed. Currently, some Gay groups have their own offices while others use the Valencia Rose cafe, the Pride Center, the Women's Building, and Metropolitan Community Church. One group (Toklas Democrats) meets in a Swedish lodge hall and another (Concerned Republicans) meets in a cocktail lounge.

The city/guild plan may work out eventually but the need to resolve the AIDS housing problem will not wait much longer. The mayor wants the problem resolved quickly so needy people with AIDS can be placed in a permanent facility.

Bonko says setting a time limit on when such a facility can be found is wrong. Cheeke remains optimistic. He explains that while he has "not found anything that meets our standards, we could find that building tomorrow." ■



Jim Bonko, executive director of the S.F. Tavern Guild. (Photo: Rink)

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VOL. XIV NO. 19 MAY 10, 1984

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VIEWPOINT

An Editor's Crystal Balls

The paper's calendar is functioning smoothly, the Greater Bay section is finally doing what we always hoped it would: be a real readable, newsy part of the paper . . . (well, almost).

Working simultaneously is our plan to expand the paper's sports section. The new format will not solely be a tally of who won what but carry features on health and fitness. Good health and fitness will be more than just a facet of the Gay experience in the '80s. The two will dominate the thinking of Gay men for years to come. The body beautiful has been coming into its own for a number of years. With the advent of AIDS, the good health interest takes on more than just an interest. Maintaining health, improving health, and fitness will dominate our Gay culture for the next decade. We all know that only a body in top form can cope with a damaged immune system. And we suspect that most of our immune systems have been affected by the new virus or bacteria or germ running rampant through our community.

We have decided to de-emphasize sexual hijinks for a spell. If nothing else, *Time* magazine has announced that the sexual revolution is over. The paper has always stood by the self-invented phrase that if one takes sex out of sexual liberation there's no liberation left. We won't abandon the concept, but neither will we promote it with Gay abandon. We sense that most Gay men have their sexual license on ice — some for the duration, some for longer than they are yet ready to admit.

Translated to newspaper business, this means we won't be having a regular porn corner section. On the other hand, if there's something specifically sexual we wish to report or record, we won't back away from it. Thus the B.A.R. Bazaar section will evolve into more of a marketplace and less of a rarified boutique.

Tom Rogers, one of our South of Market/Leather writers, is dead of the ravages that followed upon the collapse of his immune system. We don't know if we can replace him, or want to replace him. We have yet to assess if his passing reveals, too, the passing of an era.

One of our long-range goals is to reflect more of the attitudes and lifestyles in the other Gay neighborhoods: the Castro, Polk Street, the Haight/Ashbury, the Tenderloin, Upper and Lower Pacific Heights, the Avenues, Glen Park, Valencia/Mission.

A TIGHT SHOE

We are outgrowing our current office space and might find ourselves in a new location in the next year. We want to buy our own building and probably will. As the paper grows (last year it was 32 to 36 pages per week, this year 36 to 40 pages) that many more people surge through the office. We are in danger of being overrun.

The paper is the only one — probably in the world — without an out-on-the-streets advertising salesperson. Would you believe that the advertisers find us and find the paper makes a difference in their sales?

The editorial part of the paper is poised to expand as the size of the paper does. For 1985 we forecast 40 to 44 pages per issue. With larger quarters, with an advertising staff in place, we will be able to target for 48 to 54 pages per week. Could anyone stand that much of a good thing?

Also on the drawing boards are plans for a major, in-depth readership survey.

The next target will be to raise our press run up to 35,000 copies per week. As per usual at 30,000 copies we are not enough to go around.

In the crystal ball on this editor's desk is the picture of full-time reporters and photographers, two-full time editors, a 48-page paper twice a week with our writers awash in cash.

Will all this happen to this old "fag rag"?

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS

Lives Saved

* Various people have been saying things like, "If closing the baths will save even ten lives, it will be worth it." Okay, let's say that we save ten lives by closing the baths, then lose five lives to suicides by those homosexuals who can only deal with their sexuality by having sex at the baths, another five homosexuals who get beaten to death in the parks when they switch from the baths or who who commit suicide when the police jail them for cruising in the parks, and another ten across the country when some immature anti-gays take the closing as validating their fag-bashings. That's a net loss of ten lives.

Of course, the previous paragraph is oversimplifying things, and there's really no way to predict the net savings or loss of lives. But one must realize that the baths issue cannot be decided in a vacuum, and cannot be simplified to a statement of "if it saves only ten lives . . ."

As for those who say it is one of the necessary steps to keep AIDS from spilling over into the straight populace, think it through. Many who are shut off from sex at the baths will turn to parks and restrooms. Parks and restrooms are typically not populated by gays, but by men who consider themselves straight. This will transmit the AIDS to those "straight" men who will then take it home to give to their wives.

I don't claim to have any answers, but felt those additional points should be added to the discussion.

By the way, I don't think Larry Littlejohn or the other gays in on Silverman's decision are traitors. I just think they are wrong.

V. W. "Bugge" Karlis
San Francisco

Casualty Capers

* On behalf of the Inter-Club Fund, I would like to thank all the many members of our community whose time, talents, and energy made Casualty Capers 1984 our most successful fundraiser ever.

The Inter-Club Fund is a joint community effort by Motorcycle Clubs, Leather/Levi Fraternal Organizations, and independent community supporters to provide relief and assistance to community members who, through accident, illness, or injury are in serious financial distress.

The Fund is a totally philanthropic, all volunteer project. One hundred percent of the proceeds from Casualty Capers are returned to the community. From the first Capers 12 years ago to the present, every person connected with the production — the ICF Board of Directors, the show Directors and production staff, the sound and lighting technicians, as well as the performers themselves — has purchased their own admission to the event. We of the ICF are justifiably proud of this "no comp" tradition and of the commitment of the individuals that make it possible.

David Sarathain
Chairman, Inter-Club Fund
San Francisco

East Bay Politics

* We want to thank you for the prominent coverage you gave to the recent endorsements made by the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. We have a very large geographical area to cover and no particular neighborhood where our community congregates. Therefore, we very much appreciate your help in spreading the word about activities and endorsements.

One important correction: the article indicates that Diana Patrick, candidate for State Senate in Contra Costa County, was running against an incumbent "conservative Republican." The incumbent, Senator Boatwright, is actually a conservative Democrat. He might as well be a Republican since he votes much more often with them than with his Democratic colleagues. He voted against AB-1 too.

In the Bay Area, only this one incumbent who voted against AB-1, is being challenged in the primary by someone who pledges to vote for AB-1. We have only one Bay Area opportunity to stand up for AB-1 in the June election.

Diana Patrick is a strong and worthy candidate. With experience as a City Council member in Martinez, and with a deep commitment to environmental concerns, civil rights, and closing tax loopholes, she will provide a sharp contrast to Boatwright's "good ole boy" approach to politics. She will vote for AB-1 and other legislation for the rights and needs of the Lesbian/Gay community.

Patrick needs contributions: no amount is too small or too large. This is the most tangible way to show that we will fight those who stand in the way of our rights. Please send something to: Diana Patrick for State Senate, 1310 Marina Vista, Martinez, CA. On Saturday, May 26 we will be walking precincts in El Cerrito for her campaign. For details, call me at 843-2459.

Tom Brougham
Chair, PAC, EBL/GDC

Blue Cross Blues

* I recently received a letter from Blue Cross informing me that my application for health insurance had been turned down. Why? As far as I can make out, because I am a gay male (and therefore might contract AIDS and be a financial burden to them). The medical history I submitted was pretty innocuous, but it did leave little doubt as to my sexual orientation.

I would suggest that Gay men interested in buying health insurance seek advice from their doctors, and anyone else they can think of, before filling out an application. My doctor called me when he received a letter from Blue Cross asking for information about me, and began saying that he would have to tell them about this item in my medical history, but not about that one, and another item he would describe in such-and-such a way in order to conceal the fact that I was gay. Unfortunately, it was too late for me to benefit from his ingenuity, for I had naively, conscientiously spilled every possible bean in my application. I hope that other people may take a warning from my example.

Gary Pedler
San Francisco

Bon Bons

* Miles Mitchell is interested in Bonsai not banzai. Banzai is a Japanese cheer or salute. If the Japanese knew that Miles is the answer to, "Where's the Beef?" they would increase their quota of imported meat to get their fair share. As a result, I am sending five copies of that issue of *B.A.R.* to my friends in Japan who will probably shout "Banzai" when they see that photo and read the article.

A. J. Beancourt
San Francisco

Bathroom Worker

* Thank you Alan Grant of San Francisco who wrote "Bathroom," the beginning in your April 5 issue.

It's about time someone spoke up about closing our meeting places due to AIDS.

As an ex-employee of a bathroom here in New York, I am appalled at people who are supposed to help us, but who are phonies who squeeze funds from the poor and low income Gays. These so-called community health clinics overcharge for treatment and yet can't get out annual financial reports for the community. Wake up Gay brothers, you're being used by greedy money makers of our lifestyle.

Chris Jaeger
New York City

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LETTERS

The AIDS Conspiracy

★ I'm glad that the Dutch Government Health Service was bold enough to suggest a conspiracy regarding the inception of AIDS (if letter-writer Carl Harte is correct). One rarely sees this sort of thing in print, which is understandable, I suppose. Such suspicions may be irresponsible or worse, paranoid, but then again, maybe not. At any rate, I prefer even paranoid speculation at this point, to a sense of helplessness and apathy.

We've all heard that AIDS is believed to be a virus, that travels from one individual to another through body fluids, which sounds quite logical I suppose, and yet there are aspects of the epidemic that are not altogether logical. This must be the first disease in history to center upon a relatively small minority, a disease that is not in the genes, or in the workplace, or in a product of national consumption.

If AIDS is passed along through body fluids, then the Dutch Health Service is correct. At least the first AIDS victim was injected with the disease, but by what means? A rat or flea bite? A hypodermic needle accidentally filled with glue?

While it is proof of little, it is curious that this disease has hit Gays just when that which "dared not speak its name" has spoken. This virus is a discriminating one, and a new one as well. If it weren't new, the Gays of 25 years ago, who lived at the baths, had hundreds of sexual encounters, and incurred every known social disease, would not be alive today to tell of it. "Fisting," hepatitis, and "poppers" were not common then, though I knew one Gay drug addict whose immune system remained quite intact, despite the ravages heroin.

AIDS appears to be a phenomenon of the United States (and that is interesting), and specifically New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. AIDS was well underway here before even one case was reported in Europe. Chicago, with only 55 reported cases of AIDS to date, compared to New York's 1,452 cases, makes one wonder if Gays have sex in Chicago, or perhaps not one from outside its boundaries ever visits there. While some medics ponder the theory that Africa is a spawning ground for the disease, Africa has had no epidemic.

It is quite possible that the U.S. Government may have some involvement with the AIDS epidemic. When the government first tested LSD in the 50's, we recall that they picked out an unsuspecting Black man from the military as test material, who remains in unstable mental health to this day. It was also during the 50's that chemicals were dropped by plane over San Francisco in another test. These two examples we know of. Imagine what we don't know . . . I recall reading an article on the immune system in the mid-70's, before AIDS. Scientists were said to be doing tests on animals. Using Gays as testing material for germ warfare is not beyond the realm of possibility. Let's face it, to general perception, the gay male in particular is hardly indispensable.

Haitians, the second largest group to be affected with AIDS, may well be the original carriers of the disease, as some suggest, but they may also be victims, in like manner as Gays. Haitians, who escape from poverty in boats and arrive on our shores without green cards, are not considered indispensable, either.

One longs for aggressive reporters to trace back to those first known AIDS victims, questioning friends, family and doctors, or is it possible? It would be grand to throw more light on this epidemic, that sometimes reads like a script by Jerry Falwell.

Peter Norden
San Francisco

Conspiracy Theory

★ Every time I advance a conspiracy theory of AIDS my buddies say I'm just being paranoid. But it could be true. Who knows? Remember those top-secret LSD experiments exposed by *Time-Life*? Maybe AIDS is the aftermath of a defense-related experiment that got out of control. Hell, we queers are expendable because we don't reproduce, right? They can test their germ warfare techniques on us without risking the gene pool.

I was in NYC in the winter of '79. There was a guy on the street selling poppers out of a box. Who knows where he got them. One case of poppers implanted with a virus could have started all this. Maybe it was a "scientific" motive. Maybe God talked to some crazy medical researcher and told him how to wipe out the fags. It would be too easy.

Right now the focus of all our efforts must be to find a cure or a treatment, but without losing our rights. We've already lost the baths, and they'll never give them back. If a conspiracy ever comes to light, there'll be hell to pay. In the meantime I just thank God that most of the dykes and Lesbians are standing with us, or we'd all have been locked away for de-contamination long ago.

B.J.G.
San Francisco

Not Our Lifestyle

★ Beginning with the hepatitis epidemic leading into AIDS, then the assassination of our leaders, and finally the veto of our civil rights legislation, homosexual men and women are faced with methodic elimination and calculated oppression.

Consider this: an unexplainable disease in the guise of a new strain of virus designed specifically for homosexual men. Germ warfare. Too paranoid, too sinister a possibility? I don't think so! I can just imagine what really goes on down in some of those government laboratories that have been researching germ warfare

for years. Even my brother (heterosexual) said he thought AIDS sounded like something developed in a lab and planted in our community. My sentiments exactly. Just look at the devastating repercussions this "syndrome" has had on our lifestyle. What better way to destroy a subculture; alienating us from one another by instilling fear of death through intimacy. Talk about a setback for sexual liberation — prophylactics and phone sex!

I, for one, am hardly satisfied with all the extremely vague information available, especially the "bodily fluids" transmission story. As far as shutdown of tubs is concerned, we may as well be consistent in closing the bars, tearooms, Ringold Alley, and eliminating hustler ads altogether. Multiple sex is a matter of personal choice and can be obtained at any of the above places.

Faced with health dangers, dead representation, and nonexistent "gay rights," I suggest we all sharpen our wits, and scrutinize our situation carefully. We must seriously consider where the hell this germ came from, and stop buying the excuse that it was spawned by our lifestyle.

A. R. Rin
Stockton, CA

On Gay Republicans

★ I have read Mr. Wayne Friday's last article, and would like to take this opportunity to respond to one of his principal points regarding Gay Republicans, and what he feels they should do now, especially in response to Governor Deukmejian's veto of AB-1.

What I read between the lines in Mr. Friday's article is a lot of anger, and what I believe to be non-constructive criticism of Gay Republicans.

As a gay man, and as a Democrat, it is my firm belief that for all too long we gays have precariously placed all our political future and hope into the Democratic Party. This is more than understandable, as the Democratic Party has at least been receptive and responsive to some of our needs and concerns, especially in the last several years. However, the Republican Party is here to stay, and must be dealt with. If an increasing number of gay men and women ally themselves with the Republican Party, no matter how unresponsive it may initially be to them, and currently is to them, I believe our community should encourage their participation fully.

The reality is that we now have a Republican Administration in Washington, D.C., and here in Sacramento, that must be dealt with. We cannot wait for Democratic Administrations to be elected.

I cannot but believe that the presence of gays within the Republican Party can only, in the future, serve to the anti-gay attitude of some Republicans, and hopefully educate those who are more open. Wayne Friday's conclusion that gay Republicans should abandon the party, and join forces with Democrats, I believe is not constructive. The vital issues affecting gays, and the gay movement, are diverse, involve lifestyles, economics, vital health issues, and have to be dealt with by all politicians, not just Democrats. For all too long we gay men and women have put "all our eggs in one basket" — the Democratic Party — which thankfully to date has been responsive to some of our needs and concerns. However, again, we should not limit ourselves to just the Democratic Party, but have to deal with the reality of the political arena.

Leonard Simpson
San Francisco

Reagan Rush

★ Consider, in this election year, what the Democrats have to offer: An elitist appeaser (Hart); a populist laborite (Mondale); an anti-Semitic racist (Jackson); and, as a potential Veep a floundering fish (Feinstein).

The Republicans, in contrast, offer a dedicated and patriotic Conservative whose Americanism and record of standing up to the enemies of this Nation — both domestic and foreign — have made him the respected leader of the Free World.

My fervent hope is that after Ronald Reagan is re-elected to the Second Term he so richly deserves he then nominates, and the Senate confirms, as his next Secretary of State, Richard M. Nixon.

Thomas M. Edwards
San Francisco

Anniversary

★ Congratulations to the *Bay Area Reporter* for entering its 15th year as the most widely read and respected Gay newspaper in Northern California.

Over the years, I have watched certain social and political elements of our city and state repeatedly test the fiber of the *B.A.R.* and, much to my delight, have also watched as our great weekly consistently proves itself to be more than a match for its adversaries.

In my opinion, the sterling character of the *Bay Area Reporter* can be directly attributed to two persons: Bob Ross, the Publisher, and Paul Lorch, the Editor. Over the years, these two fine gentlemen have given far more to the Gay community than it will ever be able to repay.

Thank you, Bob and Paul, for your unwavering dedication over the past 14 years to the concept of a Gay identity.

Jerry R. De. Young
San Francisco

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The
Law
Centers

VIEWPOINT

(Continued from previous page)

From where we began in 1970 to where we've arrived in 1984 who would have thought it? From where I began writing in 1973 and editing in 1976, who would have ever thought it? But in my time capsule, we are on target.

These plans will come about. And when they do I will be more than ready to step aside and give over the reins to the next generation of Gay liberators.

Oh, yes . . . unlike any other Gay publication, we have a retirement, profit sharing program in place.

Paul Lorch

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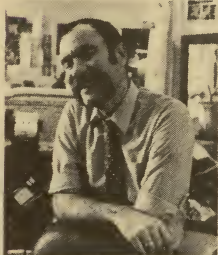
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LETTERS

Gay Lodges

★ Bathroom and sex club owners are all missing the point. If handled right there is no need to close them at all! Look at the success of the bars, Valencia Rose, the Quick Tricks Bridge Club, the Pride Center, and the Castro Country Club.

What is clear is that Gay people need places to socialize. Sutro Bathhouse is a perfect spot for a social club. Why close it down when it can be promoted as a lodge hall! Replace the private rooms with ping pong, card tables, things like that. They've already got a movie and TV room, pool table and snack bar.

Unfortunately, I have myself tied up in another business, but you can bet that I'd look long and hard at the possibility of opening a lodge. Call it Liberty Lodge (nice ring, huh?) and give out free passes to get people used to the idea of stopping by the lodge after work to hang out with their friends.

You know, the heterophiliacs have lodges — the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, the IOOF. Why not Gaytypes?

Anyone who wants to use my ideas can have them . . . just give me a credit line and lifetime free passes.

David Kaye
San Francisco

Hooray for Humor

★ Congratulations to your new Editor, Brian Jones, who seems to be able to turn out all different kinds of write ups including some welcome humor. His sissy article was a gas of high camp, but also had something to say.

I've begun reading *B.A.R.* starting from the back looking for Mary Louise as a bright spot among the long, long news stories. Also, I like Woolly and his quips and quotes. His light verses were usually the best thing on the page.

Dave Henderson
San Francisco

AIDS is a Government Project

★ A couple of weeks ago, my lover and I paid a visit to the City: while we were walking on Castro, an early morning drunk puked on my pants. We decided to drop in a laundromat on 18th and do a little wash job. While we waited for the dryer to do its thing we made the acquaintance of a cute Belgian couple who were visiting the city and doing a little wash, too.

These boys told us that AIDS had been the subject of a study in Belgium because it was a tropical disease that was rampant in the former Belgian Congo. Strangely enough, they said the disease was most common there among heteros, and that it was a somewhat weaker strain because of natural resistance. They also said that it was a commonly held belief in Europe that the US Government had introduced this sexually transmitted disease into the Gay community via the free health clinics. They suggested that if anyone would conduct an investigation of the clinics they would find that certain employees, now perhaps gone, would have CIA connections.

We found this so interesting that we insisted that they contact you and tell you the information. I even suggested that maybe it wasn't the government, maybe it was the right-wing religious nuts (they didn't buy this idea). Well, one of them went to the phone and appeared to place a call to you; my lover and I were very happy because we thought something would now happen.

Well, we have eagerly awaited each issue of the paper since then, but not a word has appeared. Did this guy fake a call to you or did you ignore the call? We believe this theory is worthy of investigation and you owe it to the gay community to spearhead such an investigation before the trail is lost or covered. Please don't ignore this or refuse to make an effort, give it at least the attention you give to the vitamin C cure theory.

I know this sounds far fetched, but remember this little known fact, disease has been used as a weapon in the past by our government; specifically against western Indians. The army (in the 1850's and 60's) deliberately introduced measles and other European diseases among the Indians. The Indians had no natural immunity to these diseases and were decimated, bacteria war had its first victims. It would only take one employee with the right serum in each of the major gay cities to destroy a large segment of those communities.

Look into it; if the idea is false, nothing is lost. If it is true, then we know the enemy will stop at nothing and can be prepared.

Carl Harte

ED. NOTE: Not the slightest shred of evidence has surfaced that would be a place to begin on such an investigation, yet this "Andromeda Strain" theory, or rumor, persists. It could well be a story feeding on itself.

Stopping Sex

★ So Dr. Marcus Conant and epidemiologist Andrew Moss want to launch a pro-celibacy campaign with the motto: "The only safe sex is No sex!" Besides a healthy skepticism of any pronouncement which begins with the assertion, "the only . . ." how should we view this latest fallout from AIDS? Are these men privy to medical research which would justify such a drastic alteration of our sexual behavior? Fortunately, the answer is no.

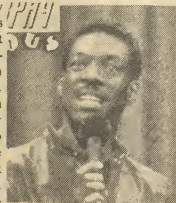
The epidemiology research conducted locally and by the CDC has been so woefully ignorant of gay male sexual behavior as to permit no solid, scientific conclusions as to exactly what constitutes "risky" behavior. Consequently, it has now been 5 years since AIDS surfaced, 3 years since it has been recognized as an "epidemic," and the doctors are still unable to define safe sex. Dr. Mervyn Silverman's assistant states publicly that the health department isn't really concerned with kissing or mutual masturbation. Meanwhile, Silverman, himself, undercuts a year-long "Safe Sex" campaign funded by his department by stating in a recent interview that a person with athlete's foot who steps on some cum might be in danger! In the very same breath he allowed as to how, of course, there was no medical evidence of such a threat.

It would be a shame if we became latter-day Howard Hughes, locking ourselves in our rooms, afraid to touch a doorknob without the aid of a Kleenex for fear of being struck down. Such is the path pointed to by those with false conclusions and little imagination. It doesn't take much reflection to realize that that path is a dead end.

H. Grant
Oakland

What Murphy Said

★ Re: The Eddie Murphy controversy. I am writing as a response to your recent front page story about Eddie Murphy's interview in *Rolling Stone* magazine. The *B.A.R.* reported in that article that Murphy told the gay community to "kiss my ass" and that he thinks jokes about black people "aren't funny." Well, anyone who read the interview in *Rolling Stone* could see that the *B.A.R.* failed to print what Murphy REALLY said.



In reality, Murphy was not addressing the entire gay community when he said "kiss my ass." He was referring to certain members of the gay population who almost always fly off the handle when they hear or read something they think is homophobic. As a gay man, I certainly did not like Murphy's "joke" — it was cruel and tasteless. But the fact is that Murphy is a comedian and many people find such "jokes" very funny. And besides, I've heard some gay men tell some equally offensive jokes about AIDS. I do not think THAT would make the front page of the *B.A.R.*

When *Rolling Stone* asked Murphy if he would be offended by jokes about black people, what he REALLY said was: "that's not funny anymore," meaning that he thinks jokes about blacks are now passe (I disagree). The *B.A.R.* chopped off the word "anymore" from Murphy's quote — how clever! I guess sensationalism and half-truths sell more papers, or in the *B.A.R.*'s case, attracts more readers. I wonder what would happen if the *B.A.R.* started to charge for their paper . . .

P.Y. Smith
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: We wrote what Murphy said. You wrote what Murphy really said. We await another who will know what he really, really said. Perhaps the time will come when Mr. Murphy realizes he should never have said it in the first place.

On charging for the paper: the answer is simple. We wouldn't be as good. The paper was built on the nostrum that "the best things in life are free."

P. Lorch

AB 1 Strategy

★ I offer the following strategy as we begin the drive to place AB-1 on the Governor's desk again:

1. Engage local-level human rights organizations to receive and fact-find complaints of employment discrimination against Lesbians and Gays.
2. Establish a state-level clearinghouse with a toll-free telephone number to collect and correlate local data for the purpose of presenting a report to the Legislature and the Governor.
3. Conduct a vigorous media campaign to motivate Gays and Lesbians to come forward to tell their stories, and to file a complaint even if it's after the fact.
4. Establish local anti-discrimination ordinances relative to Lesbian/Gay employment in 10 more of California's largest cities and counties.
5. Protect, where necessary, existing anti-discrimination ordinances.
6. Seek legal definition of the term "immutable condition" as it applies to Gays and Lesbians within the context of existing Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights statutes.
7. Motivate the Governor to reaffirm the Executive Order prohibiting employment discrimination against Lesbians and Gays in both civil service and exempt civil service employment.

Armed with the facts; the political will of local peoples; legal definition; and the strength of numbers, we shall overcome!

Bob Smith
San Francisco

Atlas to Open Unique Branch In Financial District

(Continued from page 1)

near to surface lines as well as BART, MUNI Metro, the Ferry Building, and the East Bay Terminal," added Schmidt.

When questioned about Atlas' rapid growth, Schmidt said, "This step to expand to the Financial District at the same time as we open a new headquarters on Castro Street was taken very carefully by our board of directors. Atlas is very sound financially, is making a profit, and is guided by a strong, conservative board of directors made up of experienced Gay business people." He continued, "We are confident that the time is right for Atlas to aggressively move into the downtown market, and to solidify our market position in the Castro."

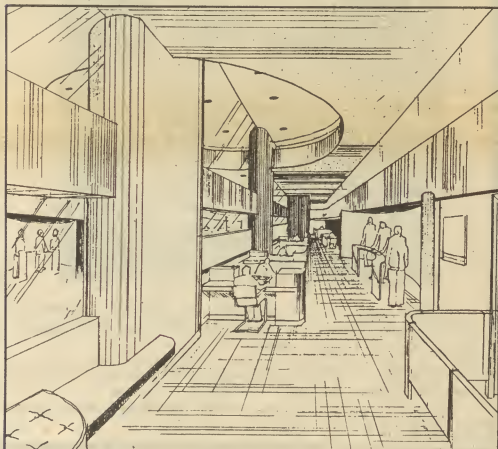
In response to questions about the recent failure of Western Community Money Center and the safety of depositors' money in Atlas, Schmidt stated, "It's important to remember that the deposits in Atlas are safe; each account is federally insured up to \$100,000 by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC). Western was a thrift and loan organization and was not government insured. Not one penny of an insured account has ever been lost in a FSLIC-insured savings and loan," added Schmidt. "More importantly, the Atlas board has a commitment to the Gay community to follow prudent lending and investment policies and remain financially solid and trustworthy."

Plans to open a Financial District branch have been in development for more than six months at Atlas. Several locations were considered and the potential customer base was analyzed. Schmidt explained, "We were seeking a location that

Also included in Atlas' decision to capture a share of the downtown business is the appeal of an informal, friendly office offering personal service from a team of Gay professionals who are experienced with the button-down banking atmosphere of the Financial District. The branch manager for the Bush Street office, Mark Fulham, is already on board at Atlas. He has many years experience in the savings and loan industry, having been



110 Bush (between Gay spas) is the site of Atlas S & L's first downtown branch. (Photo: Rink)



The architect's rendition of the inside of Atlas S & L's financial area branch.

at United Bank's Eighteenth Street branch and Montgomery Street headquarters before joining Atlas. Recently Fulham worked on Atlas' highly successful individual retirement account campaign.

Is Schmidt worried about the competition downtown? "Absolutely not. We have the right location, the right staff, and the right community to compete with any financial institution. Our move into the Financial District is an important statement, it says that not all Gays live in so-called 'Gay ghettos.' It says that Atlas serves a diverse market that crosses all social and geographic boundaries throughout the Bay Area." Schmidt added, "When the news is out that Atlas is opening in the Financial District, I expect a few eyebrows will be raised in banking circles around town. But then in San Francisco, maybe not."



Atlas' three branch managers — Mark Fulham (seated) is the newest branch manager for Atlas Savings and Loan and will head up the new Financial District office. Welcoming him are Wally Muir (left), branch manager of Atlas' 18th Street office, and Vance Holley, manager of the Market-Duboce branch. (Savage Photography)

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George

(Continued from page 1)

a porno film was something else. It was the closest time the hour-long "People Are Talking" show came to carrying through on a thought.

After his attack on Gays, a female audience member implied that Wally George was following in the steps of Hitler and his treatment of the Jews. George responded by suggesting the woman was at "that time of the month." Ross McGowan countered that the remark was chauvinist and an unfair thing to say. George called McGowan a jerk. Ross McGowan replied, "Under the circumstances I think that may be a compliment."



Wally George was questioned about the Anaheim rally. He said the event drew a capacity 1500 people to the Hilton Hotel, and he pointed out that the audience was primarily college and high school students. George said the message those young people are sending is "We believe what you say." Many agreed that his assessment was frighteningly correct.

James Gabbert has led a "closeted" Gay life as a broadcaster for the past 25 years in San Francisco. With his lover he founded KPEN, which later became K101, in the late '50s. A few years back Gabbert sold the radio outlets to purchase Channel 20.

In a recent interview, Gabbert acknowledged that he felt no reason to become publicly involved in Gay causes. The last time he says he editorialized for anything related to the Gay movement was to urge passage of the consenting adults sex bill. The bill became law on January 1, 1976.

The spokesperson for the station said Gabbert was aware of the nature of the show and believed the show would be controversial. When the *Bay Area Reporter* requested a picture of Gabbert, the spokesperson said, "You won't do anything to hurt Jim, will you?"

Diane Christensen, the director of Community United Against Violence, is far more concerned that Gay men will be beaten up in the streets than she is for James Gabbert. Christensen plans on demanding equal time to reply to the material being aired on Gabbert's station. The city-funded agency has statistical information to back up their charge that when shows such as this are aired, violence against Gays increases.

Long-time Southern California Gay activist Morris Kight has appeared on the program. He said, "With Wally George, no reason is possible. He is ignorant, loud, vulgar, tasteless, disconnected, incoherent, unreasonable, and ill-informed." Kight continued, "No one should be subjected to his methods."

Morris Kight believes Wally George practices "genocide against Gay men and Lesbians." "Genocide," he explains, "is to diminish or damage a person." The show originates from station KDOC in Anaheim which is, according to Kight, owned by singer Pat Boone.

A. White

AIDS Death Notices

Allan Estes

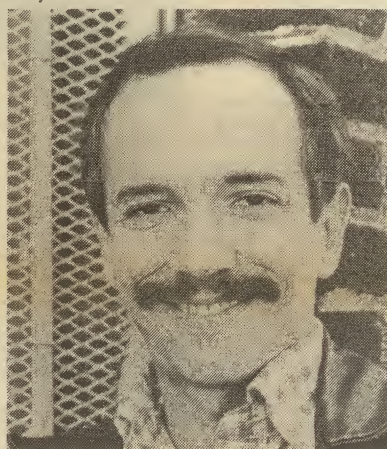
1955 - May 6, 1984

Allan Estes, founder and Artistic Director of Theatre Rhinoceros, America's largest and most successful Gay theater company, slipped peacefully from this life at sunset on May 6, a victim of pneumocystis pneumonia. He was 29 years old.

Allan's parents, Dawn Thomas and Allan Estes, Sr., were joined at the hospital by several dozen friends on Sunday afternoon to keep vigil after the painful but merciful decision was made to discontinue medicines which artificially maintained his blood pressure.

Illness struck suddenly and with little warning as he was casting his long-awaited production of Martin Sherman's play *Bent*. Kris Gannon, appointed Acting Artistic Director by the Theatre Rhino Board of Directors, announced that the theater is postponing *Bent* indefinitely and that another production, *Bad Drama* by California playwright Richard Gray, will replace it on the Mainstage at Theatre Rhinoceros. "We all feel this loss very, very personally and we are determined to live up to Allan's example. We will make sure that what he began here will continue to grow and flourish. It's the only possible monument," Gannon said.

Allan came to San Francisco from Boston in 1977 with one goal: To establish a theater where Lesbians and Gay men could go to make and see theater which reflects the realities and joys of homosexual life. Theatre Rhinoceros was the result. Although during its first season it gave only 24 performances to a total audience of about 700, this season the company has scheduled more than 300 performances which will reach an audience estimated at 30,000. Allan guided his fledgling company from nothing but a good idea to its present prominence in the San Francisco arts community. He was very proud of the fact that Theatre Rhino in its 1984-85 season enjoyed the second largest subscription audience in the city.



In 1981 Allan received a San Francisco Cable Car Award for Outstanding Achievement in Drama, reflecting his direction of Doric Wilson's *Forever After*.

At the time of his death, Allan also was secretary/treasurer of the Gay Theater Alliance in New York.

A memorial service will be held at Theatre Rhinoceros at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12.

AIDS

(Continued from page 2)

AIDS." Another participant added that the seminar's deliberations will be cited to get a multi-media grant for AIDS education from the city.

The Health Education and Media Committee emphasized the positive aspects of behavioral change rather than the negative (presumably this means no heavy duty before and after pictures all over Muni). The committee chose the theme of personal responsibility, e.g. "Since we don't know enough yet about risk reduction, and there are no guarantees, only you can change the odds." Sub-themes chosen which may soon be seen in posters and ads, etc. around town: "It's OK to talk," "Change Is Possible," "You Can Say No," "We're in this for the Long Run," "It's Hot to Be Safe." The committee also said that video bars and video pornographers should be considered as outlets for the safe sex message.

The Committee on Behavioral and Health Psychology, in a list of ten points, acknowledged that asking Gay men to change their behavior has a unique complexity because of the historical

stigma associated with Gay practices and the Gay struggle for liberation and the right to sexual freedom. (As well as the sorry record of the medical profession in stigmatizing, until recently, homosexuality as a disease, and offering to change a Gay orientation through "behavioral modification").

After the presentation of this last paper the comments included: the idea that sex should be totally hot and out of control is dangerous to your health, dinners and dating and outings must be pushed as a safe alternatives to a highly sexual lifestyle, being Gay must come to mean being sexually responsible rather than having it when and where you want it, public displays of commitment to safe sex through various emblems should be encouraged, and finally, humor should be used in the bedroom when dealing with the embarrassment of talking to someone about what you will or will not do, i.e. "We'd better stay away from that because we don't know what kind of AIDS virus that will set off." (ha ha).

Finally several participants recommended coupling (finding a lover).

C. Lineberger

Rick Jacobi

August 10, 1959 - April 24, 1984



At age 14 Rick Jacobi wrote a poem for his freshman English teacher in Manteca, California. As a schoolboy Rick could astonish his family and teachers alike with his mastery of the language of imagery in writing.

He had an acute perception of the internal and social struggles of young-manhood. To whomever he entrusted the privilege of knowing his heart, his voice rang with a power far beyond his years when expressing his deepest emotions.

In March 1983 he scripted this profound observation of his own mortality, entitled:

FALLING

*I was born to fall
From a tree, ignorant
Of seasons, especially
The ones with no blossoms
To catch wind music.
What are we but limbs
In the face of gravity?*

*The first falling
Of snow petals covers
Her in white sleep.
It won't be long
Until I touch Earth
With arms heavy as tomb
Stones, bundles of legs
Like firewood. "Falling
Is just, the average of
Living and dying." Voices
Can't break the blow
I can't comb fingers
Through sand of hair.*

On Tuesday morning, April 24, Rick died in our arms — his mom and dad; brother Tim; lovers Ruben, Anthony, and myself; and devoted friend Logan; each of us infused with his love, and all engulfed in the love that he lived for and was sustained by — as we clung to him and to each other.

He died as he lived, surrounded by those who believed in him, and sharing the most profound details of his existence with those in whom he trusted.

Richard Steven Jacobi was 24 years old, a victim of AIDS/pneumocystis carinii pneumonia. He lived only 15 days after he was diagnosed and admitted to Ward 5B in San Francisco General Hospital. He is survived by younger sisters Tami and Kerri, grandparents Bob and Ann McAdams, and grandfather Bill Jacobi, all of the San Francisco Bay region. He is buried in Modesto, as he requested.

Rick's humble self-image and essential wry humor are succinctly characterized by this statement of his creative process: "Roy asked me why I combed my hair before I started typing — I told him that you never know when a good poem is coming and you have to look your best."

A scholarship fund in his name is being established at San Francisco City College, which he attended. Contributions can be made to: Gay and Lesbian Educational Services Committee (GSELC), c/o Dean Larry Kline, Box C-330, 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112.

Rick graduated with honors from San Francisco State University in 1983 with a degree in creative writing.

God love his precious soul. ■

Tom Drury

Famed LA Cafe Must Provide Booths to Same-Sex Couples

by George Mendenhall

The elegant Papa Choux restaurant in downtown Los Angeles has been ordered by a state Court of Appeals to allow same-sex couples to use its choice, private booths. The ruling vacated an earlier decision by Superior Judge Bruce Geerhaert, who had denied a preliminary injunction to halt the practice. Two lesbian lovers, Zandra Rolon and Deborah Johnson, had been denied use of one of the "couples" booths on January 3, 1983, because they were not a heterosexual couple. They sued the owner and sought an injunction.

Appeals Justices Arleight Woods, Robert Kinglsey and Eugene McClosky were unanimous in their decision.

Attorney Gloria Allred, who represents the women, told this reporter, "We are so happy. Ecstatic. Floating on air. This ruling means that a business can no longer make stereotypical assumptions about homosexuals. They have to treat them like individuals, like everyone else, accorded the same dignity and respect. We will have a preliminary injunction ruling in Superior Court within 60 days and then my clients will be eating in one of those booths." However, Papa Choux's attorney, Arnold Gold, states that his client plans an appeal to the state Supreme Court — which would delay the injunction.

"This is far-reaching," the feminist attorney concluded, "as it means that two men together, or two women together can not be denied equal accommodation, services, or privileges in California based on sexual preference." At a press conference held at the entrance to Papa Choux, Allred said, "The decision applies not only to restaurants but to theaters, stores, and all business establishments." Few Court of Appeal decisions are published, but the 3-man panel ordered publication, which means it will be used as a precedent-setting case in future law suits.

ROMANTIC DINING

The Papa Choux booths are popular. One must be reserved far in advance. They are covered by a white gauze to add privacy. The owner said that it is his restaurant's policy that the booths are reserved for heterosexual couples "who desire a romantic evening."

Rolon and Johnson entered Papa Choux after reserving one of the booths by telephone. It was a special evening for them — Martin Luther King's birthday. However, when they appeared and sought to be ushered to a booth, the manager explained that they would have to eat in the general dining area. They refused and left. Later they contacted Allred, who filed a lawsuit contending that the women had been denied equal treatment. She complained that the two were protected by the California Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Los Angeles nondiscrimination code, which specifically makes specific reference to sexual orientation.

Judge Geerhaert had ruled earlier that the Los Angeles code was unconstitutional and refused to grant a preliminary injunction to halt the restaurant's practice after personally visiting the premises. The injunction was sought because the actual trial for damages itself may not be heard for several years with the current backlog of cases.

Allred states that restaurant owner Seymour Jackoby claimed that some customers "might be offended" by seeing a same-sex couple in one of the booths. The appeals court disagreed, writing "we are unable to conceive of any conduct that the restaurant could reasonably fear

might offend the sensitivities of the most prudish patron. The kind of 'intimate' conduct which the briefs seem to fear is not the kind of conduct that is undertaken in a public restaurant in a booth open to public (although partly obscured) view."

Allred is ready for further court proceedings if necessary. She stresses, "This case is about human dignity. It will be known as a landmark, establishing as California law that Gay people do not have to ride in the back of the bus or sit in the back of the restaurant anymore." ■

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Jackson Under Mounting Attack Over Farrakhan's Remarks

Report Phone Threats Against 2 Gay Jackson Delegates

by Dion B. Sanders

In spite of his overwhelming victory in the District of Columbia presidential primary May 1, Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson is still dogged with controversy over comments by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Last Wednesday night, Jackson's rivals, Walter Mondale and Gary Hart, took off the gloves in a nationally-televised debate in Dallas and attacked him for his refusal to disavow Farrakhan for remarks allegedly threatening a Black reporter for the *Washington Post* who disclosed Jackson's references to Jews as "hymies" and to New York City as "Hymietown."

But Hart and Mondale are not the only ones who have criticized Jackson over Farrakhan. Less than a week before the D.C. primary, two openly Gay Jackson delegates — both of them Black — denounced Farrakhan not only for his alleged threats against *Post* reporter Milton Coleman, but also for calling superstar singer Michael Jackson "a sissy" and "a threat to (the manhood of) Black youth."

James Mercer, co-chair of the Langston Hughes/Eleanor

Roosevelt Democratic Club, and Phillip Pannell, a member of the D.C. Human Rights Commission, received telephoned threats within 48 hours after making remarks published in the *Post* that Farrakhan and his Nation of Islam are extremely homophobic — and racist.

Mercer also expressed concerns about a number of allegedly anti-Gay statements that Jackson himself made to a group of Washington high school students in 1977.

Mercer withdrew his support of Jackson because of Jackson's refusal to "forcefully denounce" the Muslim leader's alleged threats against Coleman and for remarks that Michael Jackson projects "a sissified image" that is a bad example for Black youth.

Pannell vowed to "personally" ask Jackson to publicly disassociate himself from Farrakhan's comments.

The *Washington Blade* reported that Mercer's secretary, Renee Birch, received a telephone call from a man who refused to identify himself and warned, "You just tell him we're going to fucking get him for the things he said (about Farrakhan)."

Birch said she hung up on the caller.

Pannell was reported as say-



Candidate Jesse Jackson stands beside NGTF's Ginny Apuzzo at Washington, DC, press conference.

ing that he received a call between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on April 12 — roughly 15 minutes after Mercer received his call — from a man who refused to identify himself and warned, "We will get you for what you said about our leader."

Pannell had been quoted by the *Post* as saying that he felt "very uneasy" about Jackson's inclusion of Farrakhan into his "Rainbow Coalition" when their (the Nation of Islam's) views on homosexuality and Gay Rights "are obviously very negative."

The Nation of Islam is an offshoot of the Black Muslim movement founded in the 1940's by the late Elijah Muhammad. Muhammad instilled in his followers a firm belief in Black nationalism and, over the years, the Nation started many businesses to underscore that sense of nationhood.

Muhammad also, however, instilled a strict belief in the separation of the races, branding Whites as "devils" and advocated the creation of a separate Black nation in the Deep South, where more than half of the country's Blacks live.

When Muhammad died in 1975, his son, Warith Deen Muhammad, ascended to the Muslim leadership and immediately denounced many of his father's teachings, calling them "blatantly racist." He then began swinging the movement — which he renamed the World Community of al-Islam in the West — toward orthodox Islam, to the outrage of Farrakhan and other hard-liners.

In 1976, Warith Muhammad broke a 30-year-old policy set by his father and admitted Whites into the movement. That was too much for Farrakhan, and he broke from the World Community and formed his own Muslim organization, retaining the original Nation of Islam name and Elijah Muhammad's beliefs. Following Farrakhan's break, Warith Muhammad changed the name again to the American Muslim Mission.

Both organizations are headquartered in Chicago.

Mercer's withdrawal of support for Jackson angered the board of directors of the Hughes/Roosevelt Club, one of the two major Gay Democratic clubs in the nation's capital. The club had endorsed Jackson, and Mel Boozer, the club's other co-chair, said that Mercer's comments violated the club's mandate to support Jackson's candidacy.

The board voted unanimously April 15 to suspend Mercer for 90 days and to censure him for his remarks.

Boozer said that the club's other officers were not informed about Mercer's decision to break from Jackson. As an officer of the club, Mercer is responsible for carrying out the club's stated position of supporting and working with the Jackson campaign, Boozer said.

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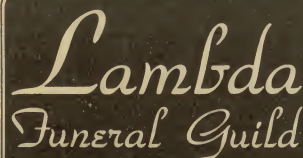
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Stonewall Endorses Jackson

by Bruce Pettit

The Stonewall Gay Democratic Club endorsed the Rev. Jesse Jackson for President Monday night — becoming San Francisco's only Gay Democratic club to arrive at a decision with the California primary less than a month away.

Stonewall membership tallies were 28 for Jackson, 17 for Senator Gary Hart, and 6 for no endorsement. Jackson was just over the 27 votes needed in a club that, unlike the Milk and Toklas Democrats, needs just a majority of all votes cast.

Walter Mondale, now seemingly close to a first-ballot nomination victory at the Democratic convention here in July, was eliminated last month in the Stonewall consideration after coming in a distant third to Jackson and Hart. The club debate thus centered on Hart vs. Jackson.

David Millstein presented the case for Jackson. Despite Jackson's private anti-Semitic remarks, Millstein, who is Jewish, said he can continue to support the Black minister because he apologized and because "his remarks were made out of ignorance, not real prejudice. . . . We all have to learn to overcome our biases." Alluding to Hart, Millstein insisted, "I could not trust a candidate who refers to labor as a special interest. Working people are the backbone of this country."

Supervisor Harry Britt, in urging a Hart endorsement, observed Stonewall's interest in keeping the Democratic convention open for dialogue. "If Mondale wins California (in the June 5 primary), this convention will be the same as the last one, where one candidate controls everything. If Hart ceases to be viable, Jackson's power is destroyed for brokering a debate

for progressive issues."

Jack Fertig countered, "Without Jesse Jackson, we would not have had any dialogue to begin with."

Answering a question on Hart's apparent reluctance to be forthright on Gay rights, Britt commented, "You judge a politician by his relationship to his constituency. Hart is to the left of the constituency (Coloradans

who put him in office" and, as President, Hart would be to the left of the U.S. political center.

But Claude Wynne contended that Hart is to the right of labor and minorities and cannot bring them out to vote. "If working people and minorities come out, the Democrats will win, and Jackson will bring them out."

Ralph Payne, political vice president, said Stonewall will circulate its endorsement slate card in areas primarily outside the Castro. Inundated Castro strollers tend to brush material aside, Payne said. Last year, Stonewall material was much better received on Polk Street. Stonewall also plans two Muni Metro displays of its positions and several newspaper ads.

In other business Stonewall:

- Endorsed a "Vote Peace in '84" rally on July 16, the opening day of the Democratic convention.

- Urged the District Attorney to drop charges against people arrested last month in a demonstration against former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Ms. Foundation Awards \$10,000 for Lesbian Health Study

Bernice Goodman, President of the National Gay Health Education Foundation, Inc. (NGHEF) announces that the Ms. Foundation for Women has awarded \$10,000 to NGHEF to fund a pilot needs assessment survey of Lesbian health care in the United States.

Heralded by NGHEF as the first grant of its kind in this country, the survey will be conducted over the next twelve months by experts in female survey research, coordinated by Dorothy Parkel. The goals of

this project are to help identify the extent of the Lesbian community throughout the country, demonstrate the health care problems in these Lesbian communities, with emphasis on third world and working class Lesbians, and to begin to translate the results of the survey into needed services.

Goodman states, "If we are going to work together for Lesbian health, there is an urgency to reach an agreement as to how 'health' translates within our extremely diverse community."



POLITICS AND POKER

Hart Hangs In with Ohio Win

WAYNE FRIDAY

Colorado Senator Gary Hart kept his presidential nomination hopes alive with an upset win in Tuesday's important Ohio primary while also winning, as expected, a close race in Indiana. Hart, who had not had a primary win for weeks, needed a good showing in this week's "second Super Tuesday" string of votes.

He said yesterday in Washington that after Tuesday's wins pulling out "is the last thing on my mind." Hart's wins Tuesday follow a landslide victory in caucuses held Monday in his home state of Colorado where the favorite-son Democrat rolled up more than 80% of the vote.

In Tuesday's other two important primaries, Walter Mondale kept his hopes for a first ballot convention victory on the track with a huge win in Maryland, with a 43% vote, to 27% vote for Jesse Jackson, followed by Hart with 25%. Mondale won easily in Tuesday's North Carolina vote, defeating Hart by a 36% to 30% margin.

Though Gary Hart kept his drive alive this week, most political observers say he is barely alive, with Mondale given a better-than-ever chance of locking up the necessary 1,967 delegates by the time the San Francisco convention opens in July. There are two minor primaries next week in Nebraska and Oregon, but the showdown could come June 5 when the large California and New Jersey primaries are held. Hart is currently favored in California, and New Jersey is thought to be up for grabs, with Mondale relying on his labor support to pull a win in New Jersey.

As Mondale edges closer to a San Francisco win, speculations were beginning to take place in party meetings as to who he would choose as his running mate with the current favorites thought to be Texas' Senator Lloyd Bentsen or former presidential candidate John Glenn. Glenn's people were actively pushing their man this week for the veep spot with the argument that although the Ohio senator and former astronaut stumbled in his own campaign for presi-

dent, he still rates high with moderate voters that the party will need in the South and Midwest. Senator Bentsen's backers argue that no presidential candidate can defeat Reagan in November without carrying Texas and Bentsen's presence on the national ticket would almost certainly insure Texas' electoral votes in the Democratic column. Walter Mondale's political strategists were known to be privately looking to having the nomination sewed up before arriving in San Francisco — they point out



Lloyd Bentsen latest Mondale favorite for VP.

that if, as they expect, Mondale wins the New Jersey vote, he will need only a handful of the California delegates to put him over the top, since they claim that a large number of those "uncommitted" votes already chosen are actually sure Mondale delegates.

After this Tuesday's contests in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, and North Carolina, the Associated Press count of the delegates shows Mondale with 1,515; Hart with 890; Jackson with 339; and the "uncommitted" votes standing at 339.

A total of 1,967 delegates are needed for the nomination.

★ ★ ★

The fallout continuing over the cops' infamous Rathskeller party last week where some members of the vice squad allegedly hired a hooker to orally copulate (rape?) a rookie. The latest line going around the Hall of Justice goes something like

this: "Well, at least if the Democratic delegates find themselves needing a hooker in July they won't have to bother finding a cab driver to help them; just ask the nearest vice cop to hire you one." Those close to the mayor telling me this is one "caper" she damned sure didn't find funny and I'm told that seldom does her honor raise hell like she did on this one. And the story isn't over yet on the embarrassing "hazing" party.

What's this? Kevin Wadsworth, a founding member and the political action chair of Republicans United, failed to win that organization's endorsement for a seat on the GOP County Central Committee? • I haven't seen any release on this yet, but am told that you can expect Jackie Jackson, wife of the presidential candidate, to be guest speaker at this Sunday's Glide Memorial Church's "celebration." • Incidentally, the Rev. Cecil Williams leaves today to lead a delegation of community leaders to the Philippines to "observe" that country's May 14 national elections. San Francisco has the largest Filipino population outside the Islands.

The latest rumor has Supervisor Harry Britt's name being entered on the floor of the Democratic convention as a candidate for vice president, and don't forget you read it here first. • L.A. veteran Gay activist upon hearing that Ed Davis is to be the speaker at tonight's CRIR dinner: "I think that CRIR and its guest should sit for five minutes in stone silence at the end of Davis' remarks, in contemplation of the violence committed against Gays and Lesbians in Los Angeles by the police during his administration." • Is Liberate finally coming out? In the latest *Newsweek* our sequined hero tells us that he decided to fight his former associate, Scott Thorson, who sued "Lee" on palimony charges. Liberate, who has in the past always denied he was Gay, says: "I could have stopped the whole thing before it started by paying off, but that would have been blackmail. And blackmail never ends, so I decided to stick it out and take the embarrassment and insults." Liberate continued, "The public is no longer shocked by celebrities coming out of their closets and exposing their lifestyles; Boy George is a good example."

When right-wing talk show host Wally George appeared on last Friday's "People Are Talking" show there was Don Bowden, the executive director of the San Francisco Republican Party, sitting in the front row applauding the demagogue wildly, and nodding approval of his anti-woman, anti-Gay statements. At one point Bowden actually got on camera to tell the controversial clown, "I agree with some of the comments you made at the offset of the show." (Mr. George was poking fun at San Francisco for being the "Gay capital," saying he remembered when this city was once nice.) After the show Bowden told this writer that he, too, remembered when San Francisco was nice ("I also remember when the Castro was nice — and look at North Beach now, it's almost all Chinese, the banks and everything").

Mondale, Hart, and Jackson not the only big name Democrats in town this month. Ted Kennedy will be here at the end of the month and some of the checkbook Democrats planning a party for him May 30 at Ernie's.

State Senate Democratic majority leader David Roberti does not seem to be giving Lia Belli much to be hopeful about in her effort to unseat Republican Milton Marks. Roberti told a reporter in Sacramento last week

(Continued on page 31)



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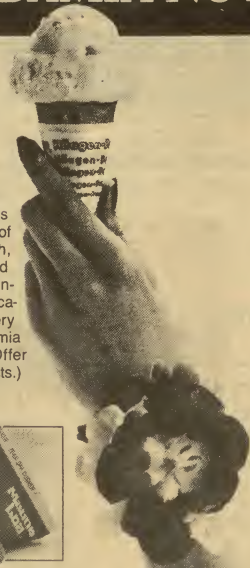
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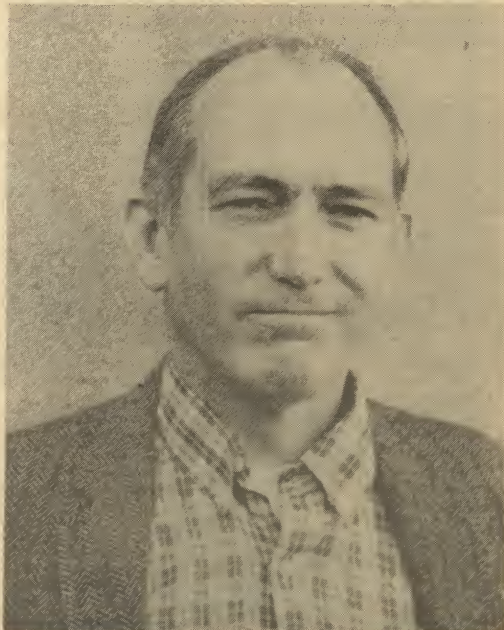


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Supervisory fundraiser planned next weekend for moderate Gay candidate, attorney John Wahl. (Photo: Rink)



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PLANNING SAN FRANCISCO WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?

The Castro: Downtown Plans Spread to Neighborhoods

CHUCK FORESTER

Part II of Two Parts

San Francisco is leading the nation in requiring both basic services and amenities as a condition for approving new office buildings. Using this approach, the Planning Commission now requires office developers to put up money for new housing and transportation services necessary to support the workers that will be employed in those offices. In the past, the City was required to pay for these services out of general revenues, and in many cases the City couldn't afford them. The Downtown Plan includes new provisions for open space amenities and art.

Increasingly, neighborhood groups are asking for amenities as a part of new developments in their community. To be successful, the neighborhood needs two important bargaining chips:

1. The neighborhood has to be organized and speak with a unified voice before the Planning Commission.
2. The neighborhood must know what it wants and be able to substantiate that request.

Hibernia Bank provided a plaza at the expense of a clock, not an unfair trade. In other instances developers may not want to be as generous in what they are willing to trade for amenities they propose to eliminate.

THE ELEPHANT WALK

I remember watching the Elephant Walk open with a feeling of loss, despite my fascination with the brass door handles. The times they were a-changing: Having missed the dress-up days of being Gay in the '60s, all I had known were 501's and plaid shirts. I felt uncomfortable in an elegant bar that charged more for drinks than they did up the street at Toad Hall.

The Elephant Walk was the first upscale bar, and it combined drinks with (are you ready?)... Brunch! Its polished brass bar and palm frond decorations set a trend of classier decor, and its tables and food signaled a trend toward mixed activities. The large glass windows continued the urban design tradition of visual access. On White Night rioting policemen charged the doors, beat up patrons of the bar, and earned the Elephant Walk an important place in the history of Gay Liberation in San Francisco.

THE CLOSING OF PAPERBACK TRAFFIC

Neighborhood retail has long been the purest form of our free enterprise system, and for years it was a means for Gay men and Lesbians to participate in the system without fear of losing their job when discovered. The Castro is perhaps the nation's best example of Gay capitalism, from bookstores to banks.

Paperback Traffic started early and grew to meet the needs of the neighborhood. In a few years it became one of the City's best bookstores with Gay and Lesbian titles as well as extensive collections on everything from homeopathic medicine to furniture design. One day Paperback Traffic closed abruptly. Across the street it was replaced with Crown Books, a chain that stocks largely discounted best-sellers. Down Market Street, the Walt Whitman Bookshop has developed an exclusively Lesbian/Gay market.

Fame of The Castro's phenomenal volume of pedestrian traffic spread, and major chains are coming to The Castro to do business. Hallmark, Walgreen's, Haagen-Dazs, and 7-11 now clamor for commercial space just as Budweiser, Falstaff, and Coors used to fight for beer concessions in the bars.

Today the neighborhood caters to residents and people from around the country (and the world) who come to experience this phenomenon called



Nothing remains the same — least of all hot territory. Here the engineers eye a Castro market for the wreckers' ball. (Photo: Rink)

Castro Street. And in the process the neighborhood becomes all the less personal than it used to. The new competition has forced rents to a level that only high volume, expensive operations can afford. As that happens, the possibility of attracting other businesses and providing space for Gay men and Lesbians who want to try out their own new idea is diminished. As part of the same process, a large number of residential units have been converted to "more profitable," i.e. commercial, uses.

Planning law permits land uses to be regulated, but it is not easily used to keep rents low or to discriminate among similar kinds of activities. For example: you can regulate fast food, but you can't zone out a fast food chain and keep a homegrown variety.

On many commercial streets banks are a problem (check out West Portal sometime) because they are not active commercial space. They are wealthy enough, however, to outbid most other activities for space. A good example is an established and favorite neighborhood market in North Beach that lost its lease. A savings & loan now occupies that space. In a similar situation on Castro Street we lost a market to Atlas Savings, but in this case the bank was moving from around the corner. And Atlas Savings is not just another bank. All of this points out the difficulties of trying to plan and maintain a commercial area. As with housing, many decisions must be handicrafted to suit the circumstance. What is needed are guidelines so that each decision is not a wheel designed from the

start. The Department of City Planning will release revised controls for neighborhood commercial areas later this year, and they are important plans to examine.

Shortly after being elected to office on a platform of protecting San Francisco's housing supply, Supervisor Harry Britt voted to convert residential units to a dirty bookstore. Now that's what I call tough political decision. It's a classic planning issue. Where do you draw the line? Should all housing be preserved or can you remove a unit here and there? Convert a couple more for shoe stores, copying, and health food — what the heck. Where are new units going to be built to replace the ones that become hair salons?

Some say, "My apartment is rent-controlled (also a vote by Harry) so I don't care if someone else has to pay high rents just because we don't have enough

ing and permit that housing to be built at slightly higher densities. But not excessive densities: Ask the people living around 17th and Eureka who are faced with a potential blockbuster that would go literally in the middle of the block. Each case must be handled individually so that the scale of the project fits with the surrounding area. Increasingly, the final designs are individually shaped by developers working with neighbors. Sometimes the City Planning Department can play the role of matchmaker in these decisions; most often they are the arbiter.

THE OPENING OF MUNI METRO

After years of torn-up streets and rerouted green cars, the Muni Metro opened, and the entrance area to the Castro station was made a memorial to Harvey Milk. The Plaza will be dedicated this year on Harvey's birthday. Muni Metro made it easier for people to get to work downtown. The Castro has three lines running down the middle and one line at each border. This kind of accessibility made the neighborhood all the more desirable as well as making it easier to come to shop and eat and play in The Castro. How do you spell success? c.o.n.g.e.s.t.i.o.n.

The City's transit planning has not kept up with the neighborhood's growth. For example: The Castro is one of the three busiest after-midnight areas in San Francisco; why isn't the 24-Divisadero line a 24-hour line? Another problem is parking: Commercial and residential space are already tight in The Castro; is there any space for more parking? Asking everyone to ride a motorcycle, while an attractive idea, is not reasonable. Asking everyone who drinks in the neighborhood to take Muni, while reasonable, is not an attractive idea. Already you can see the problems.

IN SUMMARY

Planning issues too often appear as crises: Someone proposes something; someone else opposes it. To make planning work, knowing what you want is the place to start. Increasingly, groups are coming together to put together neighborhood plans and build consensus on how they want their community to grow and change over time. The answers are often complex, and they cannot be realized overnight but the rewards are worth it. A strong commitment to the neighborhood exists in The Castro. That is a necessary first ingredient to building a plan for The Castro. ■



After the walls fall, new floors are laid. Even the Castro enjoys the thrill of rejuvenation from the bottom up. (Photo: Rink)

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Gay Donors, Lesbian Moms

Oakland Sperm Bank is Bullish on Babies

**Feminist-Run Clinic Doing Brisk Business
Despite the AIDS Scare**

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first article in a two-part look at a feminist-run sperm bank in Oakland, where many of the recipients are Lesbians and many of the donors are Gay men. In this week's article, the philosophy behind the sperm bank is examined. Next week, we'll take a look at the process of artificial insemination.

by William Rodarmor

The first sperm bank in America run entirely by women is doing a booming baby business in Oakland. The bank inseminates single women and Lesbians — no questions asked — in addition to infertile couples. Many of the donors are Gay men. And if the donor and the mother-to-be want to have more than the usual anonymous relationship, the bank won't stand in their way.

The sperm bank made the front pages of major Bay Area newspapers when it opened in Oakland in late 1982. "Feminists become brokers in sperm," was the way the *San Jose Mercury* put it. The bank was featured on the Phil Donahue and Merv Griffin shows.

Bank Director Barbara Raboy, a 33-year-old Lesbian, said that in its first year of public operation, the bank inseminated about 60 women, nine of whom are pregnant. The first of several babies was born last September.

The feminist-run bank was set up to meet some specific problems. "There are Bay Area physicians who have been doing donor inseminations for single women and Lesbians, but just a few," said Raboy. "It's mostly done privately through midwives and friends. Sometimes it's very easy, and sometimes it's been very hard." Outside of the Bay Area, it has been especially difficult. "We recently inseminated a woman who flew in from Dallas. We've had women come in from as far away as Chicago, Florida, and even Alaska," Raboy said.

The sperm bank is part of the Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, which has offered abortion, vasectomy, and birth control services for a decade. "We started getting so many calls from women who wanted babies," Raboy said, "we realized there was definitely an unmet need. So we started inseminating women through the clinic."

Men friends of the clinic were tested and selected, and semen was collected. "We didn't have any tanks to freeze anything, so we used fresh semen," said Raboy. "We inseminated 13 women, and all 13 got pregnant. That's a pretty good rate, if you ask me!"

Raboy herself was one of the group, and is now the mother of a dark-eyed boy named Reynal, who will turn two in November. Center Director Laura Brown was another; her little daughter Leila captivated the audience when she appeared on the Phil Donahue Show.

The sperm bank is housed in a neat two-story yellow building on McClure Street, surrounded by the hospitals and medical offices of Oakland's Hill.

Inside, it is quiet, but a baby can be heard faintly, crying somewhere. Barbara Raboy's mother Bea works two days a week at the Center, riding herd on dozens of phone calls, and sending out brochures: "Do you want that in a plain envelope?"

... No? ... Okay, hon, it'll be in the mail."

There are pamphlets and books on holistic health in the waiting room; the bathroom, where donors produce their sperm samples, has a bottle of hand lotion and the book *The Joy of Gay Sex*.

One day recently, a bearded 53-year-old teacher I'll call Bill was sitting on the sofa, waiting to learn if his sperm sample passed the bank's tests. Bill is Gay and has never wanted children of his own. "The program seemed a simple way of doing someone a favor," he said.

How did he produce his sample? "In the most rudimentary way imaginable," he said.

The sperm bank screens potential donors carefully. Men who want to donate complete a lengthy questionnaire and provide a semen sample. "I check the sperm's general appearance, and check for motility," said Raboy, peering into a microscope. A glance through the eyepiece revealed a host of greyish dots dancing an energetic spermatozoal ballet, and Raboy confirmed that the motion of the sperm in the sample was fine.

The semen is frozen in liquid nitrogen at 394 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. At least 40 percent of the sperm must survive freezing and thawing. Next, a battery of lab tests are run on the donor: blood type, venereal disease, hepatitis, and, for Jewish donors, Tay-Sachs disease. The screening is similar to that used by the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank in San Francisco, and is supervised by Dr. Bernard Gore, obstetrics-gynecology and infertility specialist.

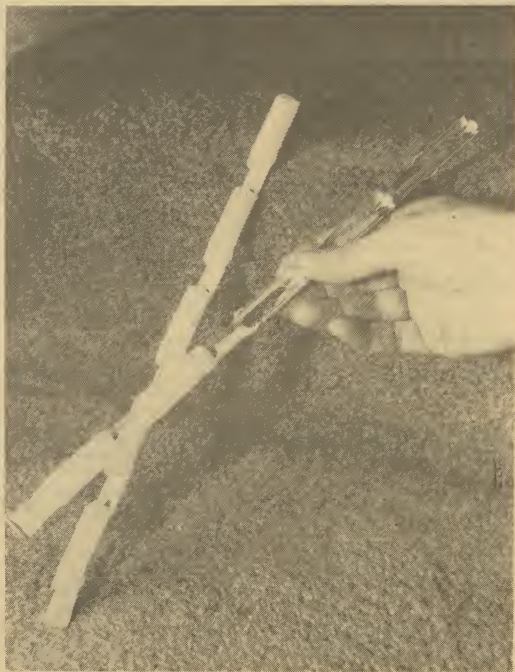
The AIDS scare has not appreciably cut into the number of women coming to the sperm bank, but has led them to ask many more questions. "We can tell them who the homosexual donors are," said administrator Robin Williams, "and we go through a whole rigmarole with potential donors to find out if they're likely AIDS candidates."

"We ask if they're Gay, how many anonymous sexual contacts they have, how often they have sex, if they've ever had venereal disease, hepatitis, parasites, and whether they have rectal sex. We don't accept anybody

who might be a risk. Of course, this is all pretty much theory; there isn't any test for AIDS we could give."

The bank is one of the only sperm banks that tests for cytomegalovirus (CMV), one of the most common sources of infectious birth defects, causing some 4,000 babies a year to be born

(Continued on page 17)



Vials of frozen sperm, in a metal "cane" or rack, are kept in a freezing tank for storage. (Photo: W. Rodarmor)



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Marin AIDS Support Network is Formed

Ministry of Light (MOL) is proud to announce its sponsorship of Marin AIDS Support Network. Recognizing the increased incidence of AIDS in Marin and the lack of community support services, support network Executive Director Holly Hayden approached the MOL board for permission to begin operations under MOL's oversight.

Acknowledging the time-critical nature of the need, MOL agreed to free the support network of organizational details so Hayden could concentrate on services to AIDS patients, their lovers, families, and friends.

The network helps these people understand the process of dealing with the disease and helps the community understand its responsibility for delivering appropriate support services, as it would for any other disease.

The network provides one-to-one and group counseling, home visitation, and hospital visiting counselors. The network refers

persons to Gay-sensitive health care providers, gives current information on AIDS risk factors and prevention, organizes social events, and distributes a newsletter.

Rev. Jane Spahr of MOL explained that MOL is a Presbyterian ministry with the Lesbian and Gay community, providing resources for churches, schools, and other community agencies, but that the support network is without religious affiliation or intention and is available to all, regardless of their religious affiliation (or lack of it).

Anyone willing and able to contribute time, talent, and/or money to the Marin AIDS Support Network should contact Hayden or Rev. Spahr. Checks should be made payable to the Ministry of Light so the donee will be able to take advantage of MOL's nonprofit status. A memo notation on the bottom of the check "for AIDS Support Network" will insure 100% of any gift will go exclusively to the Network. ■

High Attitude Meets Higher Attitude: Eartha Kitt

Eartha Kitt smiles as she is whisked away from the Mr. Drummer contest at The Woods up Russian River way. After a disastrous evening at Davies Hall in the City, Kitt had only five minutes to spare for the eager Woods crowd — and so performed only her current hit before hopping back into her limo, above, to try to catch a plane to London (she missed the plane). Kitt told Woods promoters they could have five minutes — take it or leave it. For a crowd already well-versed in high attitude, that was high attitude. (Photo: R. Pruzan)



GSL to Host AIDS Patients' Picnic

Once again the Gay Softball League is out there helping. This time the GSL will host a lunch for brothers with AIDS on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, at Lang Field, Gough and Turk.

It is expected that upwards of 50 people will spend the day at the park with us and enjoy the

fabulous feast being handled by Commissioner Bob Docca.

Docca would like to thank Holly of the AIDS Foundation and all GSL teams and sponsors for helping make this what is sure to be a fun-filled day.

Pack a lunch and come out and join us! ■

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East Bay Gays Request School Board Nondiscrimination Policy

The East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club has requested that the Berkeley School Board adopt a policy to prohibit discriminatory colleges and employers from recruiting on campus. The Berkeley Schools do not discriminate in hiring, but no one in the administration knows of any policy which governs recruitment policies on campus.

"Originally, we had thought to add the term 'sexual orientation' to an already existing policy," said Kerry Woodward of the EBL/GDC. "But it seems that there is no present policy. We hope that the board will be able to draft a comprehensive policy

covering sexual orientation, physical disability, and other groups now covered by the City of Berkeley's Nondiscrimination Law."

Speaking before the School Board at its May 2 meeting, Woodward said, "Some colleges openly refuse to accept Gay and Lesbian students, or only accept them if they pledge to 'cure' their homosexuality. Likewise, many employers continue to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians and other minority groups." Woodward reminded the board of the absence of any statewide protections in this area.

Woodward said the subject arose recently over discrimina-

tion by the military against Gays and Lesbians and how this would affect a decision to allow the military to recruit on campus. The PTA brought the issue to the School Board's attention.

School Board member Anna DeLeon asked for the subject to be put on the agenda as a regular discussion item at the next Board meeting, Wednesday, May 16.

The next meeting of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club will be Sunday, May 13, at 7 p.m. at the West Branch of the Berkeley Public Library, 1125 University Ave. Endorsement of ballot initiatives will be considered, as will club plans for precinct walking for endorsed candidates on May 19, 26, and June 2. Anyone who would like to help the campaigns of Marge Gibson, Peggy Hora, or Diana Patrick should call Tom Brougham at 843-2459. ■

East Bay Lesbian, Gay Celebration June 17

Barbara di Jeannene of Berkeley and Bob Kegeles of Oakland have been selected as the 1984 co-chairs of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Celebration Committee. The committee is responsible for the annual East Bay Lesbian/Gay Day celebration.

The 1984 celebration will consist of a parade and rally on Sunday, June 17. The parade is the kick-off for festivities for International Lesbian/Gay Pride Week in the Bay Area. This year's rally program will include musicians, speakers, poets, and comedians. The celebration site will be ringed with booths representing local organizations, Lesbian/Gay businesses, and craftspeople.

East Bay Gay Day (now known as the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Celebration) has had a long history in Berkeley, always taking place the Sunday before San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day. Prior to 1983, the local celebration was sponsored by the Pacific Center for Human Growth, each year draining energy away from valuable Pacific Center programs.

In January 1983 an independent community group — the celebration committee — was formed. Its sole responsibility is to produce the celebration. Last year's first annual combined parade and celebration attracted 300 participants for the parade and 1500 for the celebration. Goals for the '84 celebration in-

clude 1,000 marchers and 3,000 to 5,000 revelers.

The 1984 co-chairs bring to the committee a wealth of community experience and connections. Barbara di Jeannene has worked with the Pacific Center and is currently an active volunteer with Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund in Berkeley. She also acts as unofficial social director of Ollie's, a Lesbian bar in Oakland.

Bob Kegeles is chair of the

Berkeley Community Health Project and is an active member of East Bay AIDS Resources Organization, the Gay Men's Health Collective, and the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. He has previously worked with the Pacific Center and the Fruit Punch Collective of KPFA Radio.

The celebration committee is composed of a wide variety of people and is open to all who are interested. People interested in helping to pull together the events can phone Bob at 547-0802 or Barbara at 548-9229. ■



THE HUB

Attitude Adjustment Hours: M-F 4-7

Saturday Hours: 5 PM-2 AM

SUNDAY — 2 FOR 1
WELL DRINKS AND DOMESTIC BEERS
3 - 7 PM

TUESDAY EVENINGS
ROCK OF THE 80'S VIDEO NIGHT
8 - 10 PM

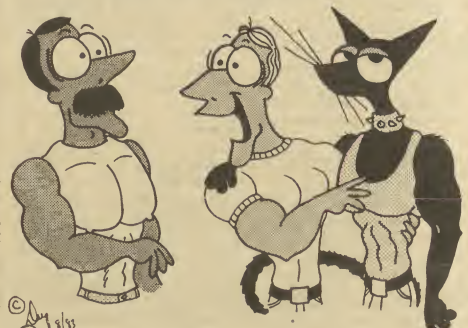
DANCING NIGHTLY

1220 Pine Street
Next to the 7-11 Store

938-4550
Walnut Creek

Take Highway 24 to Walnut Creek (which turns into 680), Ygnacio Valley Road off ramp-right for 5 stop lights, then left on Civic

Pumps By Dug Pigley



"This is my lover, Steven . . . He's a pussycat!"

OAKLAND

Out-Bid — Again!

NEZ PAS

Vendue Proffering (An Out-bid Nose?) If one has a tendency towards oclophobia (fear of crowds) the latest in a series of auctions by Little Mother and Ed Paulson at the Spoiled Brat, Sunday, April 29, was not the place to be! The place was packed!

As usual, Ed was his energetic, snappy, and robust self. This enthusiasm must have rubbed off on Little Mother. I've never seen her more aggressive, puissant, and laborious. Because of all this aggressiveness, the two of them managed to raise \$3,356. A generous donation from the Spoiled Brat made it an even \$3600. Their grand total from just two auctions now totals over \$7600! I'm sure that the goal of \$20,000 will be reached — and passed —

what with the five more auctions coming up. The next one in this catena will be at Town & Country, Sunday, May 27 at 4 p.m.

Little Mother certainly didn't have any scotophobia (fear of BIG balls) when she offered \$100 to the cause if Frumpy would "expose" himself to her! Little Mother got the "worm's eye view" while the audience received Frompy's infamous "moon"! Steve was heard to mutter, "I see it free everyday. Why would anyone WANT to pay to see it?"

One of the most enthusiastic and spending bidders just had to have been Carol, sister of John Drab. Seems to me that she bid on just about everything and walked away with many a treasure.

A bit of trichophobia (fear of hair) was in evidence, but the salvaged "fag tag" from Dego's tresses managed to bring forth a \$5 profit!

A portion of the crowd did remain to witness Lady Johnny's "A Trip to FANTASY Island '84" but there was a feeling among the auction group that went along the lines of "if THEY want us to support their show, why didn't THEY support our auction?"

Granted, make-up, dressing, last minute rehearsals, buffet preparation, loading and unloading vehicles, commitments at other places, make-up touch-up, etc. all are very time consuming. But it doesn't sound unreasonable that at least more than three representatives of the gala presentation should have participated in the auction. Hell, with a cast of 23 performers and host/hostesses couldn't more have been attendance at the auction rather than wait for their grand entrance after it was over? Evidently, their kind of support is a one-way street: you support me, but don't expect me to support you! My mind wanders back to the first "basket" auction. "Their" support wasn't there, either!

Congratulations to Lady Stephanie for bringing down the house with her rendition, and for filling her cleavage with the most bucks!

Bienvenue Domus! A Wherehaveyoubeen Nose? This Friday, May 11, the beloved LaLa of Hayward fame will be welcomed home by a very lonely, and "hungry" Villan Al. LaLa has been doing her duty for God, country, and "Big Brother" since February 24. I can well imagine that the celebration will be a la casa rather than a la bodega!

NEZ'S NOTES:

• Town & Country, along with its regular Sunday brunch (11 to

3), now has a Sunday Barbecue from 2 to 6 p.m. It features ribs, chicken, hot links, baked beans, potato salad or cole slaw for \$4.95. Also, you may choose a NY steak for \$7.95.

• A busy two days for Revol: Sunday, May 13, "Say 'Hey, Merry May'" starting at 4 p.m. with the music and entertainment of Bravo and a complementary buffet at 6 p.m. The next night, Monday, May 14 is RGD Larry's second East Bay "Basket" Auction, starting at 7:30 p.m.

• Can't understand why Marv is upset with Sam (T&C). It's normal for gay types of relationships to result in public hairs in one's teeth. Of course, the two found in Sam's teeth weren't red! I KNOW Marv didn't dye his hair!

• Be forewarned! Lady Rhonda is planning a big bash to benefit Coronation '84 (ACIE) and I just happened to quickly peruse her list of possible donors — yep! Every Gay bar and restaurant in Oakland and Hayward!

• Boy do Zephyr and Hagatha have mega-stories to tell about their trip to the Los Angeles area. I understand that they saw a lot of numbers, did a number, and got some numbers at Numbers in Hollywood!

• Just when I thought that the old chain-letter routine had finally died out, I read in Randy Johnson's column about still another making the rounds. It was the usual pap until I came across: "Frank 'Frumpy' Frommelt of Hayward received this letter many months ago, sending out the twenty copies on time. He was thrilled that within two days he signed the lease on the Spoiled Brat in Hayward. However, four of the letters were returned from the post office as undeliverable. The next day his hair turned curly. Now, he has remailed those four letters and his hair is back to normal again.

Please do not ignore this letter. Please. It works!" Letters, or lack of same, curled his hair? Oh, please!

• Harumph! Someone was selling raffle tickets to help support one of the West Bay's baseball leagues. Several bought, and returned the tickets stating they were donating the money and to resell the tickets. The seller didn't even say "thank you." Is the word a no-no to the East Bay from the West Bay?

• Don't forget to buy tickets for the bushel of booze raffle; they're on sale at most every East Bay bar. It's all call brands, and the winner will be drawn at the final LM/EP Auction in September.

• How curious, if it's true, that Spoiled Bratt is having a "party" the very same day and time as "Say 'Hey, Merry May.'" Sources tell me that Dean, Jim and Jim are a tad upset — like making gravel out of rocks? Not for paving, dear ones, for burying!

Please help keep my mind clean. Others may wish to use it! That's worth two smiles! Love,

Nez

South Bay: It's a Camp! (In Big Sur)

High Tech Gays (HTG) of San Jose has reserved three camping sites at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park for May 18, 19 and 20 for 30 (or more) outdoors persons. Call Denny at (408) 292-6475 for reservations. If you can't make it for Friday night, come on down for Saturday night.

You will need to bring a tent, sleeping bag, food, utensils, etc. HTG will furnish all the charcoal, paper plates, etc. Don't forget you will also need to bring food for Saturday and Sunday breakfasts.



Sperm Bank director Barbara Raboy holds her son Reynal and tends to a friend's child. Both children were conceived by artificial insemination. (Photo: W. Rodarmor)

Oakland Sperm Bank is Bullish on Babies

(Continued from page 15)

mentally retarded. According to Dr. Howard Brodie of San Francisco's Mount Zion Hospital, CMV appears in the semen of only 1-2 percent of straight men, but over 30 percent of Gay men, including most people with AIDS. Freezing sperm reduces the virus' viability but doesn't eliminate it.

Since the bank has Gay men among its donors, Brodie urged it to do CMV cultures on part of every semen specimen. "That way, if the culture was negative, then the frozen portion would be all right. It's still not perfect, because you can have false negative cultures, but it's better than just using the semen willy-nilly."

The Oakland bank firmly rejects the idea of using only highly intelligent donors, which is followed by the Repository for Germinal Choice in Southern California. The so-called "genius sperm bank" accepts semen only from Nobel prize winners and inseminates only women who belong to Mensa,

the high-I.Q. club. "The whole idea of doing selective breeding is just disgusting to us," said Lisa Radcliffe, who recently worked at the bank. Director Raboy calls it "baloney."

The bank here is suing the Repository for a remark by one of its staffers published in *Mother Jones* to the effect that if women wanted degenerates for children, they could always go to Oakland.

"We're looking for donors who agree that whether it's for an infertile couple, a single woman, or a Lesbian, women should have as much help as possible to get pregnant, if that's what they want," Raboy said.

About 20 percent of the donors are storing sperm for their own future use. These are men facing chemotherapy or vasectomies, or who have dangerous jobs. They pay \$30 per ejaculate per year. The semen can be reliably stored for at least 7 to 10 years.

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by William Rodarmor

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Number of Persons _____
Number of Beds _____

THIS

THURSDAY 10

• **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage performance, featuring *Superstitions* and *Sad Lament of Pecos Bill on the Eve of Killing His Wife*, Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, call 441-8822 for ticket prices.

• **5th of July:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM. Call 861-5079 for ticket prices and availability. Written by Lanford Wilson and directed by Joe Cappelletta.

• **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St., S.F., 8 PM, \$15 and \$18. Award-winning playwright Jane Chambers' play about Lesbian love and death.

• **Leland Mellott:** poetry/theater performance, Valencia Rose (second floor), 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$2.

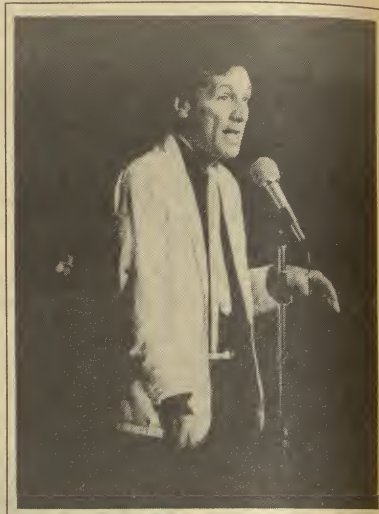
• **Gwen Avery:** soul/R&B, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 to 8 PM, free.

• **Frontrunners:** Fun Run, meet at McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, S.F., 6 PM, free.

• **The Dyketones:** A campy all-women band who combine '50s rock-and-roll theater with absurd glee, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Reservations, 863-3863.

• **Tom Ammiano:** Can you imagine waking up with Tom? That's Gay comedy. On radio 98.9 FM at 7 AM, the Alex Bennet Show.

• **Lesbian Alternative:** to the bars' "grand opening," with snacks, jacuzzi, massages, billiards, video, games and music, The Place, 160 Haight St., S.F., 6:30-11:30 PM. Please RSVP to 864-0876.



They're Everywhere. Tom Ammiano (l.) and Danny Williams comes into its own in the City. Catch Gay Comedy Night every Friday, May 11, with Paul Krassner at the Rose. (Photos: Rick)

SATURDAY 12

• **Spring Band Concert:** Gay Freedom Day Marching Band features Overture to *Candide*, Roman Carnival Overture, and Blue Danube Waltz, Herbst Theatre, S.F., 8 PM, \$8 and \$10 advance, \$9 and \$11 at door. Reservations, 392-4400.

• **Food Fair:** Second part of "Healthy Affair '84" features sampler of natural foods, nutritional evaluations, and hair analysis, Good Provider Natural Food Store, 584 Castro St., S.F., all day, free.

• **Holly Near:** sings with Chilean ensemble Inti Illimani, Berkeley Community Theatre, M.L. King Way and Allston, Berkeley, 8 PM.

• **Gay Comedy Night:** with emcee Tom Ammiano and Danny Williams, Monica Palacios, and the Fabulous Dumonts, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$4.

• **Day in the Park:** for Lesbian mothers, their kids, their mothers, and friends, to celebrate Mother's Day, Elk Glen Meadow in Golden Gate Park, Noon to 5 PM. Bring lunch and games.

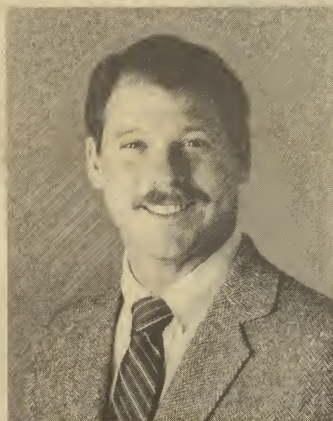
• **Gay Family Day:** for parents, children, and friends of Lesbians and Gays, part of Stanford U. Gay/Lesbian Week, Frost Amphitheater, Noon; and Governor's Ball, 8:30 PM, on the 2nd floor, Old Firehouse, Stanford U.

• **In the Niche of Time:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

• **5th of July:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, 5 PM, \$15 and \$18, 9 PM, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).



James Gilman performs the entire "Dichterliebe" Friday.

• **Harry Hay:** Seminar featuring Mattachine Society founder as part of Stanford U. Gay/Lesbian Week, 2nd floor of the Old Firehouse, 4 PM; and, at 7 PM, Hay speaks on "Coming Out at Stanford in the '30s," Braner Hall Lounge.

FRIDAY 11

• **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

• **5th of July:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).

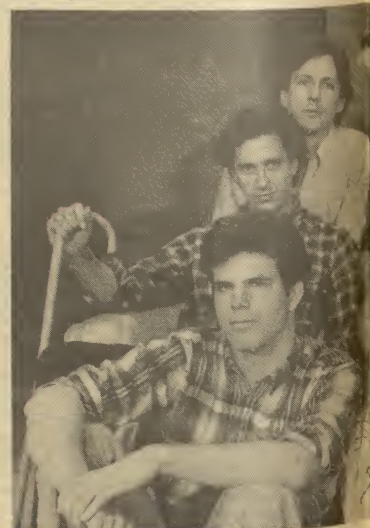
• **Lesbians Over 60:** support group, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 4:30 to 6 PM, free. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. For more information call Sheryl at 626-7000.

• **Jane Dornacker:** comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 to 8 PM, free.

• **James Gilman:** music, performance of the entire *Dichterliebe* song cycle and all five of Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*, Church of the Advent, 261 Fell St. (near Gough), S.F., 8 PM, \$5.

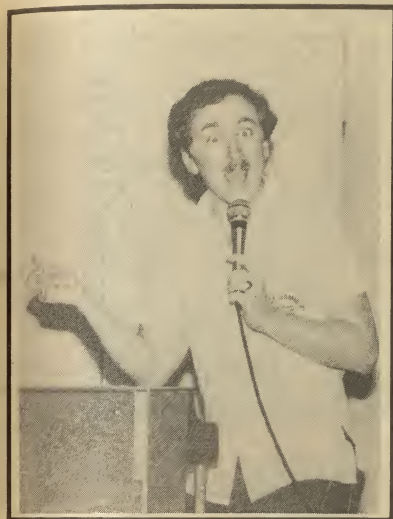
• **Political Comedy:** Tom Ammiano, dean of S.F. Gay comics, teams with Paul Krassner — whom the FBI called a "raving, unconfined nut" — for biting political satire, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. Reservations, 863-3863.

• **In the Niche of Time:** "Common Threads," three-woman theater troupe, uses mask, mime, and music to confront the fears and uncertainties of living today, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4 to 16. Reservations, 863-3863.



5th of July focuses on two Gay lovers and their grappling (Photo: M.I. Chester)

WEEK



any Williams (r.) are riding high on a wave of popularity as Gay comedy Night every Saturday at 10 p.m. at the Rose. You can also catch Tom (photos: Rink)

SUNDAY 13

- **Fun Run:** Frontrunners, Gay and Lesbian running club, peels off to Marin for 1- to 6-mile run, begins 10 AM, Main and Second Sts., Sausalito.
- **Gay, Lesbian Police:** Sheriff's Lt. Connie O'Connor and SFPD Gay Liaison Paul Seidler speak at the Gay Academic Union, Fort Mason Bldg. B, Room 345, 4 PM, \$2.
- **Mothers and Daughters:** multi-media performance examining roles and innovations in mother-daughter relationships, a benefit for Lyon-Martin Clinic, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., Noon, \$5 to \$8.
- **AIDS Forum, Part II:** broadcast on AIDS and bathhouses featuring Harry Britt, Sal Accardi, Lawrence Wilson, and others, radio KSAN (95 FM), 6 AM.
- **VD Clinic:** by and for Gay men, Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM.
- **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage (see Thursday listing for details).
- **5th of July:** stage performance, 3 and 8:30 PM (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, 3 and 7 PM, \$15 and \$18 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Kitty Margolis and Joyce Cooling:** jazz, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free.

MONDAY 14

- **Social Dance Classes:** Ollie's, 4130 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Learn the two-step, waltz, swing, and popular



grappling with the past, Wednesdays through Sundays at Theatre Rhino.

western dances. Drop in any Monday; classes taught by Fay Cuthbertson. For more information call 588-7113 or 731-2527.

- **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** with emcees Tom Ammi-ano and Danny Williams, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2. Performers sign up at 7:30 PM.
- **Permanent Wave:** with Nancie and the Neighbors, rock-and-roll music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$4.
- **Holly Near:** with Chilean ensemble Inti Ilumani, Great American Music hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$10.

TUESDAY 15

- **Debbie Saunders:** rhythm and blues, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **Cris Williamson:** with Tret Fure, Carrie Barton, and Cam Davis, benefit for the Int'l Indian Treaty Council, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$8.
- **Men and Boys:** seminar on pedophilia, Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7 PM.
- **James Broughton:** author of *Ecstasies*, and Edouard Roditi, author of *Emperor of Midnight*, read from their works, Intersection, 756 Union St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3 (\$2 members).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).



Holly Near joins a Chilean ensemble in East Bay and City shows this week.

WEDNESDAY 16

- **Bill Folk:** Gay singer-songwriter in his S.F. debut, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.
- **Gay Rockers:** including Pete Shelley, Sylvester, and the Frantics, radio KPFA (FM 94.1), "Fruit Punch" show with Jon Sugar, 10 PM.
- **Cris Williamson:** music (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **5th of July:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Lady Bianca:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 to 8 PM, free.
- **Amy Dondy:** music, 132 Bush, 132 Bush St., S.F., 6 PM, \$3. With Bill DeLisle on the piano.
- **Lesbians Considering Parenthood:** six-week course with Cheri Pies, MSW, begins at the Lyon-Martin Clinic, 2840 Mission St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, sliding scale from \$60 to \$75. Call 641-0220 to register.

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.

THE ANCHOR

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TOM AMMIANO

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FROM 9 PM

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STAGE



La Cage aux Folles: Big Bucks, Big Hype

Community Will Benefit, But Producer Allan Carr Will Likewise Earn a Bundle

by Michael Lasky

La Cage aux Folles, in all its creative entities, has made millions for its creators and producers. First it was a French farce, then a French film, then a film sequel, and now a Jerry Herman musical based on the play and film.

In its first night performance in San Francisco — the beginning of its national tour — La Cage aux Folles will finally make some money for the people it is about: Gays.

Sponsored by the Cable Car Board, the benefit is being held May 29, the first night of previews for the show. It opens officially on June 10 at the Golden Gate Theatre.

Four Gay charities will share a hoped-for \$60,000 from the net proceeds:

- The San Francisco AIDS Fund;
- Lesbian Rights Project;
- Operation Concern: Outreach to the Elderly;
- Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights' "Can We Talk?" brochure produced with the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

With tickets selling at a \$100 top — or \$70 over their basic cost — just how much will the charities split?

According to Cable Car Board president Bob Cramer, the anticipated profit should be "in the neighborhood of \$55-60,000 after expenses. The house cost about \$61,000. Add to that \$25,000 in expenses such as advertising and promotion, administration, and supplies for the post-show party in the City Hall Rotunda — which alone rents for \$2,500."

Producer Allan Carr brought up the idea for the benefit and offered the Cable Car Board first crack at selecting a night to buy the house for the benefit. His largess ended there. "The Cable Car Board had to buy the entire theatre at the full face value ticket prices. The producers offered no group discount of any sort," Cramer said.

At the Cable Car Awards February 4 and later that night at Sylvester's midnight concert at the Castro, Carr raised a standing ovation with his announcement, "We're bringing La Cage aux Folles to San Francisco and the first night's performance is going to be a benefit with the money going to the Gay community."

Carr predicted, "We'll raise \$50,000 for the Gay community in San Francisco."

The Golden Gate group sales office confirmed that there are no exceptions to the rule — no discounts to any group, no matter how worthy the charity.

"He gave us first crack including the first performance, which I think is very important," said Cramer. Many other groups, including the Democratic Convention, have taken over the theater for numerous evenings during the run. Just how many groups or which groups, the Nederlander organization — operators of the Golden Gate — refused to say.

So, while four Gay charities will earn a significant sum, producer Allan Carr will earn more that night than they will.

The Cable Car organization will be netting its high take by charging high prices — \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25 for tickets. The high tab has not affected sales. As of last week, about 80 percent of the tickets were sold.

"straight" (i.e. play without music) comedy in Paris. It ran for eight years in France, the longest running comedy in Parisian theater history. The Jean Poiret play was then made into the film by Francis Veber, and when it opened quietly in the United States, it became the highest grossing foreign film in U.S. history. A sequel (match) was created by Veber which continued the story of Georges and Albin. The sequel, La Cage aux Folles II, also made pots of money, though not as much as its original.

Allan Carr purchased the rights to make it into a musical. After a first failed attempt, it was finally whipped into an outrageous success by playwright Harvey (Torch Song Trilogy) Fierstein and composer Jerry (Hello, Dolly) Herman.

Still running at the Palace Theatre in New York, it is unique for having the highest-priced tickets — and, at Carr's demand, an entire second balcony at \$10, the lowest ticket price on Broadway.

The two main characters are lovers (although they never kissed in the film or in the stage versions). Georges is the owner of a St. Tropez nightclub featuring female impersonators. His lover is the highly temperamental star of the show, Albin.

Confusion results when Georges' son by a short previous marriage comes home announcing his intended marriage to the daughter of the ultra-conservative Minister of Morals. Georges must arrange for the flamboyant Albin to go into the closet when the Minister comes to meet the parents of his daughter's fiancé.

Georges and Albin also have a limp-wristed queen for a housemaid who, overnight, must learn to be butch. That subplot apparently has been completely downplayed in this Broadway musical — which must appeal to universal straight audiences.

If Georges and Albin are now decided closet dwellers, they still are represented as Gay — thank God — which ostensibly is a step in the right direction, anyway. And Jerry Herman has written a song that straight reviewers call the Gay National Anthem, "I Am What I Am."

For that, ticket-holders will be feted with a gala evening first with entertainment in front of the theater and later, at City Hall Rotunda, a champagne reception featuring the Gay Men's Chorus, David Kelsey and Pure Trash, and the Gay Marching Band.

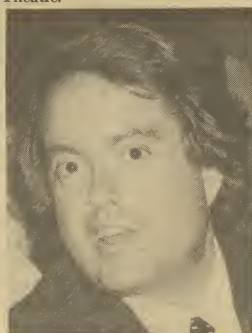
"A sizable portion of top public officials will be on hand for the evening, including, hopefully, Mayor Dianne Feinstein," Cramer said.

The groups which will share the proceeds were picked by Allan Carr, which prevented any offense being taken if charities had to be selected locally.

The show has not always sought Gay good will. In New York, when B.A.R. approached the musical's press representative, Shirley Herz, the paper was refused a critic's seat and was told that the Gay angle of the show was being downplayed.

Because of the size of the Gay population in San Francisco, the Gay angle of the La Cage story apparently could not be overlooked here.

La Cage aux Folles began in the 1960s as a highly successful



La Cage producer Allan Carr. Seen at top right, Carr announcing the La Cage benefit. (Photos: Rink)

Susan Sullivan, Nora Hefflin

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SF Chronicle

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Male Ensemble Too Fine for Eager Ears

by Bernard Spunberg

"Wasn't the Tallis exquisite?" enthused a friend after the concert given by Die Mannerstimmen at Old First Church on May 6. I didn't agree. Thomas Tallis' two "Lamentations of Jeremiah" are masterpieces of 16th century English polyphony. Delicately entwining voices evoke loss with sadness neither arid nor self-righteous, but colored with subtly tinted emotions. Music Director Tim Isbell's interpretation was subtly tinted, all right. It was so subtle, it almost wasn't there.

And so it was with the rest of the concert. Refinement is great, but this was ridiculous. Singing full out, as in a couple of Schubert drinking songs, the twelve voices of Die Mannerstimmen produced just about enough tone to fill a phone booth. Balance? Blend? I saw the basses move their mouths, but their tone was almost completely overshadowed by the tenors. Individual voices from all sections occasionally stuck out at inappropriate moments. Judging by what was audible, intonation seemed fine.

Ironically, the best performances were of two serial pieces by Schonberg in which intonation is virtually impossible to judge. Director Isbell preceded "Hemmung" and "Verbundenheit" ("Restraint" and "Obligation") with warnings against the strangeness of Schonberg's atonal style — surely superfluous at this point. The performances expressed the simultaneously hyperemotional and withdrawn quality of Schonberg's music to moving effect.

Jaunty rhythms enlivened Adriano Banchieri's "Exsultate Justi in Domino." Sung with a little more tone than either the Tallis or Schonberg works, the Banchieri was over only too quickly.

Conductor Isbell's own piece, "Disposable Music #102," lived up to its title. Pianist Cody Gillette (cleanshaven) played farflung chords with a steady rhythmic pulse. The piano was augmented with electronic sounds manipulated by Dwight Okamura. As the music played, members of the ensemble formed three groups holding signs endorsing Mondale, Hart, and Jackson. Timely! In a little while, Gillette commenced a rousing rendition of "California, Here I Come!" as several men tacked up patriotic bunting. The piece concluded with the ensemble, which never sang a note, posed in an Isadora Duncan-esque tableau vivant. Isbell revealed a strong sense of humor in his prefatory remarks, but I still have one question: What does the "102" in the title mean? Don't tell me . . .

Baritone Wayne Wentworth provided the highlight of the concert in solo passages of a Schubert "Trinklied." His sweet tone conveyed virile high spirits

Gay Library Exhibit

The San Francisco Public Library's main branch will host an exhibit in May of memorabilia relevant to Lesbian/Gay lifestyles.

Sponsored by The Lesbian/Gay Museum Project of The Harvey Milk Archives and The West Coast Lesbian Collection, the second floor display cases will feature materials dating from the 18th century England to the present.

These items represent an overview of the diversity within our cultural heritage. ■

within a Schubertian context. Accompanist Gillette, too, responded to Schubert's rustic tune with full-blooded assertiveness and musicality.

Where my friend heard exquisite, I heard bland, pale, and gutless. Maybe my years of live harpsichord recitals have destroyed my eardrums. Whether the concert was bland or I can't hear, I believe that Gay reviewers and audiences have a special responsibility to support Gay performing ensembles. Our greater responsibility, however, is to the truth. ■

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN



"Four Moi?" Coluche (c.) receives an explosive gift from Thierry Lhermitte (r.) after shaking up for a week with Lhermitte's "girl," Isabelle Huppert, in *My Best Friend's Girl*.

My Best Friend's Girl

Bon Ami Chick

The kind of *menage a trois* pictured in Bertrand Blier's *My Best Friend's*

Girl is probably more common in Gay than non-Gay situations. Many of us have close friends who have stood by us while lovers have come and gone; and in the course of a long friendship there's likely to be a shared trick or two, whether or not both friends are aware of it.

The best buddies in this sometimes droll, sometimes dull French comedy are chubby, unsexy Coluche and younger, handsome Thierry Lhermitte. "For ten years no one has ever come between us," Coluche boasts. Their relationship is clearly defined: "One scores and the other one cleans up."

The provocative presence of promiscuous Isabelle Huppert threatens to disrupt the arrangement. Thierry picks her up and falls in love with her the first night. He encourages Coluche to be nice to her and throws them together until — The rest is so obvious it should not be stretched to feature length without more imaginative twists than Blier has been able to concoct.

"Can men and women be just friends?" Coluche asks Huppert while he's still trying to keep things platonic. "It'd be nice for once," she responds. "It would be nice, but this isn't the film that's going to explore that possibility."

Truffaut handled the situation far more adroitly over two decades ago in *Jules and Jim*. The most novel thing about *My Best Friend's Girl* is its setting — a house at an Alpine resort with skiers streaming past the many windows. The three stars are so pleasant they can make you think you're enjoying *My Best Friend's Girl* if you don't dwell on the reasons why you shouldn't. ■

(Clay)

S. Warren

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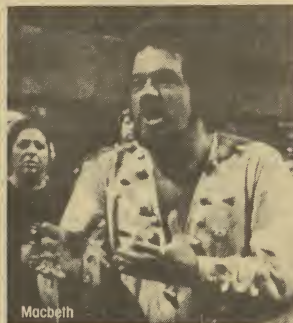
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Rhino Offers Two Absurdist One-Acts

by Bernard Spunberg

Chaos and mayhem reign in two Absurd one-act plays by Argentinian playwright Copi currently in production at Studio Rhino. Mayhem is easy enough to understand. You know, stabbing; strangling; repeated injections with heroin, cocaine, and speed. The usual fun stuff. As for chaos — well, that may be too strong a word. How about "semi-chaos?"

The *Four Twins* takes place around an Alaskan igloo occupied by punky twin sisters played by Blancet Reynolds and Paoli Lacy. With their cache of heroin and gold ingots hidden away in a Christian shrine, these girls are sitting pretty — that is

until the arrival of Christine M. Sullivan and Sharon Harrington, also twins. Far from punks, the latter exude suburban glamor in pedal pushers.

These four women are not very nice. "Bitch," "Fucker," and "Shit" in various combinations alternate as their names for each other as their lust for gold and drugs drives them to kill repeatedly. Yes, repeatedly. In this play everybody dies countless times.

Director Philippe Roy has staged *The Four Twins* like a gymnastic event. The women are in virtually constant violent movement, sometimes taking

fatal falls with legs straight up in the air. And the screaming! Near the end, sheer pain forced me to cover my ears.

The *Homosexual*, or *The Difficulty of Sexpressing Oneself* is much more subtle. Paoli Lacy plays a young Russian girl pregnant by her transsexual lover. Or maybe she's pregnant by her mother; she's a transsexual, too. Anyway, the girl is pregnant. Mother, played by Sharon Harrington, and

daughter are visited by the daughter's piano teacher, another transsexual, played by Randal Friesen. Friesen loves the girl and wants to elope with her. By the end, the girl has broken her leg, her finger, put a mouse up her rectum, cut out her tongue, and shit in her pants.

Director Roy builds the action slowly but surely with an intensity that grips despite the ridiculousness of the situation. Sharon Harrington starts out nice and gets scarier and scarier as the crazy mother. Randal Friesen is simply divine as an exotic flower of Russian aristocracy. Paoli Lacy's obnoxious little girl earns hundreds of swift kicks.

But what does that funny red light traveling across the stage mean? What does any of it mean? Do the plays underline the destructiveness of greed and drug addiction? the superficiality of gender identification? Damned if I know. Direction and acting are vivid. Costume designer Lorraine Cathey-Barber has built one hell of a bloody stump where somebody's arm used to be. Audiences — reviewers, too — enjoy the theatrical fireworks. Still, the question lingers: Why? ■

The Four Twins and The Homosexual
Studio Rhino
Through May 26; 861-5079



The cast of *The Homosexual, or The Difficulty of Sexpressing Oneself*: (l. to r.) Randal Friesen, Paoli Lacy, Blancet Reynolds, Christine M. Sullivan, Sharon Harrington, Michael Bryan. The play runs weekends at 8 p.m. at Studio Rhino. Reservations: 861-5079. (Photo: M.I. Chester)



Theatre Rhinoceros' *The Four Twins* plays through May 26 and features (l to r.) Christine M. Sullivan, Sharon Harrington, Blancet Reynolds, and Paoli Lacy. (Photo: M.I. Chester)

A Dozen Films Booked So Far

Anti-Castro Feature Leads Gay Film Fest

Producers Securing International Works to Screen During June's Gay Freedom Week

by Steve Warren

The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival has secured the controversial anti-Castro documentary *Improper Conduct* for its opening night feature, June 18 at the Castro.

Directors Nestor Almendros (famed cinematographer of *Days of Heaven*, *Kramer vs. Kramer* and dozens of foreign films) and Orlando Jimenez Lial (director of *El Super*) interviewed a number of Cuban exiles, many of them gay, for this hard-hitting film. One of the directors will appear at the premiere showing.

Gay is a relative term in local festival circles. Last month's 27th annual S.F. International Film Festival had more than half a dozen entries with significant gay content, ranging from the marvelous *L'Homme Blesse* and *An Englishman Abroad* through the partially recommended *Forty Deuce*, *The Fourth Man*, and *The Terence Davies Trilogy* to the innocuous *Clementine Tango* and the boring *Swann in Love*.

The people of Frameline have more of an uphill job securing features for this year's eighth annual Lesbian and Gay festival. Working on a much smaller scale, with a far more limited focus, they're truly dedicated to the task of locating these often obscure films and bringing them here for at least one viewing.

More than a dozen films are already booked for this year's festival. They include an encore of *The Terence Davies Trilogy* and the local premiere of *Drifting*, an Israeli film about a gay filmmaker; and such oldies as the '30s German classic *Viktor und Viktoria*, on which Blake Edwards based *Victor/Victoria*, and the 1968 Japanese ef-

fort, *The Black Lizard*, which gay author Yukio Mishima adapted and appears in.

In cooperation with the Lesbian/Gay History Project, the festival will present *The Gay Girls' Writing Club*, a program of "home movies" made by a covert group of Hollywood professionals in the '50s and '60s.

From Brazil come two films — *Asa Branca*, about a young soccer player facing homosexual

attraction and repression; and *Amor Maldito* (*Banned Love*), which festival director Michael Lumpkin says "may be the only film about Lesbianism to come out of Latin America."

Australia offers the feminist video *On Guard* and a comedy, *The Clinic*, concerning a VD clinic serving (and staffed by) both Gays and non-Gays. A Spanish documentary, *Dressed in Blue*, is about transvestite prostitutes.

Rainbow Serpent comes from France and *Mirror Mirror* from Denmark, but filmmakers closer to home will also be represented. San Franciscan Jerry Barrish, who made *Dan's Motel*, offers the premiere of *Recent Sorrows*, about two men — one gay, one not — who become friends after their respective relationships fall apart. And our always outrageous Curt McDowell presents two new films, *Sparkle's Tavern* and *Stand By*.

The festival spans Gay Freedom Week, June 18-24, starting at the Castro and moving to the Roxie Theatre. There will also be a video program that Friday night at the Trocadero Transfer, prior to dancing time.

For a more complete and up-to-date schedule, contact Frameline at P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114; or phone (415) 861-5245. ■

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One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week

Lover.

by Michael Benzry

Thursday-Saturday, May 10-12: (Roxie) Variety. A woman becomes a ticket seller in a porno theater and gets some revolutionary ideas about the roles of men and women in sex and pornography.

Friday, May 11: (UC Theatre) *Women in Love*. D.H. Lawrence's sexual ambiguity is revealed as two sisters and their men explore the limits of friendship and love. Alan Bates and Oliver Reed wrestle nude under Ken Russell's direction. With Lady Chatterly's

Wednesday, May 16: (Strand) *Christiane F.* As David Bowie sings, teenagers sell their bodies in Berlin to buy heroin. She finds out her boyfriend is closer to his male johns than he admits. *Pixote*. A ten-year-old on the street in Brazil survives in any way he can.

Thursday, May 17: (Strand) That lovable 300-pound gay male actress Divine in John Waters' early assaults on taste, *Multiple Maniacs* and *Mondo Trasho*. With Russ Meyer's *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* ■



You Can't Catch Me, Chopper! A helicopter pursues Snitter (l.) and Rowf, The Plague Dogs, in Martin Rosen's latest animated feature.

The Plague Dogs

Infectious

The Plague Dogs is another animal allegory from the creators of Watership Down — novelist Richard Adams and screenwriter/producer/director Martin Rosen.

It begins in a lab where cruel experimentation is done on dogs and other creatures. Animation and anthropomorphization make this maltreatment seem more inhuman than inhumane. The lab is some murky government affair where they're fooling around with bubonic plague

germs, among other things; but that news doesn't get out until after two dogs escape.

Snitter, a fox terrier, and Rowf, a Labrador, are our heroes. Their efforts to survive in the wild are aided by a fox called The Tod, but hindered by an operation Snitter had which led to "confusing the subjective with the objective in the animal's mind." John Hurt was an excellent choice to voice this confused creature.

The dogs are pursued on the one hand because they've been killing sheep to eat, and on the other because there's a chance that they're carriers of the lab-produced plague. If you do a bit of reading into this you can extrapolate Gay men as the "plague dogs" of today, and closing the bathhouses as the first step in our "justified" extermination.

If you take the story at face value you may wonder why they don't run tests on the dead sheep to find out whether the dogs are carriers. That's one question the film raises, but a more common one is "Wha'd they say?" A variety of British accents have been Dolbyized into mush, making the dialogue difficult to understand.

Visually The Plague Dogs is much better, with camerawork that is highly creative for an animated feature. As in Watership Down the violence gets a bit intense, as if Rosen wants to be sure everyone knows they're not watching Bambi.

(Cannery) S. Warren

TONED EAF TONE DEAF TONE

San Francisco Couple Aim for New Recording Career

JERRY DE GRACIA

San Francisco recording artists Peter and Mary Buffet bring a hint of Norman Rockwell's Americana to their emerging careers, but it is juxtaposed against a possible link to middle-class conservatism by their keen sense of the real world around them.

In a business where careers can be made at brunch and ruined during after-dinner drinks, the two maintain a warm, friendly attitude to strangers. It's refreshing in a genre where paranoia and negativity are more often the rule.

The two are busy pursuing their recording career — focusing their energy on their first ep "My Boyfriend's Back," which has involved a wholehearted working relationship with members of the Gay community.

They have embarked on their "new" recording career as a result of their previous involvement in the music industry. For almost two years, they have worked behind the scenes at Independent Sound, a recording studio built in the basement of their home, helping other artists lay down tracks.

But in January 1983 producer John Hedges came to the studio with the idea of doing a remake, and in the process, enlisted Mary Buffet to do vocals, with Peter working the instrumentation and production end of the spoof.

The song has since garnered club play and sparked video interest on various music programs. But in spite of this attention, both say strongly that the song is not definitive of their musical style. Although they have not finalized that style,

their best shots at defining it volleyed from pop to pop dance music, to synthesized music.

Their move from production to stage center was not a mere fluke, although "My Boyfriend's Back" was happenstance. Both have logged substantial time in the recording business.

Mary Buffet was baptized in the Phil Spector church of hand



Mary Buffet: Her boyfriend's back — he's her hubby, actually — and her ship may be coming in with new hit.

claps and hey la's at the age of fourteen, while Peter graduated from the ranks of synthesizer experimentation to recording engineer.

Aside from the studio, which they have developed into a self-supporting entity, they have augmented their income writing and producing music for commercials, including some MTV

spots and the current California Milk Advisory Board campaign.

Their ep — which was signed, sealed and delivered as a one-shot deal on the Moby Dick label — is the stepping stone on which they hope to cross over to a major label with greater distribution power. In the meantime, they continue working on their material, but feel they have enough Class A music to do the lp tomorrow given the opportunity.

Although writing music for commercials is lucrative and their enthusiasm for production work in their 24-track studio is satisfying, both agreed that pursuing a recording career is top priority at this stage.

They are able to track all their music in the studio but they have worked with James "Tip" Wrick as guitarist to enhance their all-electronic sound. Although they have done a few live appearances they have relied on taped music for back-up, bringing only synthesizer and vocals to these shows. Peter said the idea of putting together a band for live performances is a consideration that has to wait until after their recording career is more solidified.

NECROPOLIS OF LOVE

The Necropolis of Love, a young and talented local group, appeared before a sparse crowd last week at the Trocadero Transfer. It was their last show for a while because they are headed for recording sessions in New York where they will be putting their first album together.

If they are able to capture their passion and energy on the planned lp, it is unlikely this three-man group will ever play to a sparse crowd in this city again.

The small but powerful lead singer, who doesn't look old enough to drink, has vocal chords that would make Billy Idol jealous.

The Man Who Knew Too Much

"Hitch" Without a Hitch

"Que Sera Sera" was voted Best Song at the Oscar ceremonies in 1957, but the film from which it came didn't receive too many other accolades — except at the box office.

Even if critics didn't care too much for Alfred Hitchcock's second version of The Man Who Knew Too Much (the first one was made in 1934), audiences got what they came for: a slambang nailbiting thriller complete with convincing, confident performances by James Stewart and Doris Day.

Although the film is more than a half-hour longer than Hitchcock's first

version, the suspense is still maintained as Stewart and Day, traveling in Morocco, accidentally become embroiled in political intrigue by witnessing a murder. The spies, aware of this, abduct their young son to London, where Day — who conveniently plays an ex-singer — uses "Que Sera Sera" to find the boy.

The climax, in London's Albert Hall, still remains one of the great heart-pounder sequences in film as Day, who knows an assassination is to take place, must remain quiet to keep her son alive.

The Man Who Knew Too Much is really just superficial fluff that Hitchcock referred to as "a piece of cake." Yet he has us eating it out of his hands — and begging for more.

(Bridge) M. Lasky

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TALES OF TESSI TURA

Tortures Unrelenting

GEORGE HEYMONT

Our local bathhouse brouhaha, with its safe-sex motto of "It's what you do, not where you do it," has affected some of my recent thoughts about opera. Despite fervent attempts to educate Gay men, I think it's safe to say that bodily fluids are still going to be exchanged with the same regularity that some of Mozart's music gets abused.

No matter how much one hopes and prays for safe sex and sane singing, the risks we take and the dimensions of the problems we face vary from night to night.

The mangling of Mozart's operas is widespread. This usually takes place when they are performed in large auditoriums instead of the smaller, more intimate chamber theaters for which they were written. Operatic purists who, like some pre-convention mayors, seem obsessed with preserving the status quo, often argue that to take Mozart out of our 3,000-seat opera houses would solve the problem and nip the blight in the bud. However, I think we must ask ourselves, instead, what measures must be enforced to stop the spread of sloppy singing. Are we to suffer ensembles without ecstasy? Airtight arias? Coloratura condoms?

PLAYING SAFE IN THE SERAGLIO

The San Francisco Opera Center's recent production of Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio* proved that under humbly streamlined circumstances Mozart can and will succeed. Much of the evening's strength came from the intimacy

of the Herbst Theatre and the commitment of the young cast. The audience, too, seemed willing to go that small extra distance in accommodating opening night nerves and minor mishaps — such as the thud of a wooden fig dropping from a tree.

As a whole, the evening was a

creditable effort which gave five apprentice singers valuable stage experience in a safe setting. Richard Bradshaw's conducting was right on target, achieving a crisp momentum which captured the audience's admiration early in the evening. Walter MacNeil's Belmonte was solidly sung and noticeably more secure than Jeffrey Thomas' dangerously cute Pedrillo. Alas, James Patterson's Osmin (though full of bluster) often failed to convince.

Mozart's music leaves a singer dangerously exposed. As the drippy heroine Constanze, Joan Gibbons often sounded tight, missing many a mark and displaying mushy diction throughout most of the evening. Infinitely more appealing and stage-worthy was Cheryl Parrish's bawlsy "Britannia Rules the Waves" style Blonde. Jerry Landis' spoken Pasha Selim reeked of Rosalind Russell. But within the confines of the Herbst, Mozart's opera went down smoothly and with a sense of healthy fun.

STATUARY RAPE

Would that the same could be said of a recent matinee of Don Giovanni in San Diego's 3,000-seat Civic Theatre. The performance was an ugly mess. The cast knew it, the audience knew it, and you could feel a sigh of relief coursing through the auditorium as the final curtain came down. While Don Giovanni has never been my favorite Mozart opera, I must confess to being genuinely delighted upon hearing some inner voice shriek "Guess who's coming to dinner?" as the statue of the Commendatore staggered down the street.

Despite the presence of such strong and proven talents as Faye Robinson, Marianna Christos, Michael Devlin, and Richard McKee, certain unfortunate backstage tensions added to the rocky work atmosphere surrounding this production.

Christopher Keene's conducting frequently lost its momentum. When tenor Stuart Burrows forgot his lines and stammered, "I now realize that Don Giovanni is the man who murdered the father of, er, uh — Don Giovanni?" I clung to my conviction that there was nowhere to go but up.

This matinee was a sad example of what happens when a poorly-directed, painfully exposed ensemble of experienced singers is left fumbling to survive on the stage of a huge opera house. There was little team spirit or pride to be found in their work — as if all parties had



"Beat me! Whip me!" Constanze (Joan Gibbons) boasts of the tortures she will endure to prove her love for Belmonte as her maid, Blonde (Cheryl Parrish) weighs the consequences in Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

been told "Go straight to hell. Do not pass 'Go.' Do not collect \$200."

PROMISES, PROMISES

Curiously enough, the production of Don Giovanni which I saw in San Diego used Toni Businger's sets and costumes from the San Francisco Opera. Although Terry McEwen once vowed that under his administration this production would never again be used by the San Francisco Opera, rest assured that Businger's gilded grates will grace the War Memorial's stage once more before the year is out. McEwen made a similar prediction about Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's *Rigoletto* sets. They, too, will return to town this fall. As, some predict, will Kurt Herbert Adler — to conduct *Rigoletto*.

How many times has someone told you "The check's in the mail" or "I won't come in your mouth?" At a press conference several months ago to announce casting for the San Francisco Opera's summer season, one sensed a growing credibility gap between McEwen and the press. In recent months I have expressed strong doubts to friends about the super-hyped style in which Terry has chosen to hawk the San Francisco Opera, feeling

that the local public is far more sensitive to the quality of his product (or its occasional lack thereof) than he realizes. The San Francisco Opera's recently released fall season is promoting a lineup which, among many regulars, has induced nothing but yawns.

Those of you fortunate enough to have caught Peter Davis' recent article "What's Wrong With The Met?" in *New York Magazine* know that things are not just rotten in the state of Denmark. The past two seasons have witnessed the San Francisco Symphony steadily pulling ahead of the opera in terms of attendance, quality, and popularity. And, while the symphony goes all out to herald new developments and treat its product as a class act, the opera's seasonal announcements have been greeted with little fanfare and perhaps even a sense of embarrassment.

Merely placing Luciano Pavarotti's picture in strategic positions on a brochure is no longer enough to make people in this town turn somersaults. Unless, of course, you're willing to believe that opera fans were breaking down the door to see Regine Crespin as the Grand Duchess of Gerolstein. ■

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BOOK RACK

Have Villains, Will Travel

The Alexandros Expedition
by Patricia Sitkin
Alyson Publications; \$5.95, paper

by Marv. Shaw

There are three villains here. One is the Shiite Moslem fanatics, surely the most convenient of today's baddies. The second is an attractive Westerner, leagued with the Shiites and even more fanatical — and homophobic too, of course. The third is homophobia itself, shadowy but powerful, lurking even in the hearts of the naturally Gay and certainly in the minds of the straights who deragate us.

Sitkin develops the conflicts through the story of a rescue attempt on an English journalist imprisoned in a Mediterranean country that is geographically Syria but philosophically Iran — the fictitious Tariq. The rescuers are two young men who

were very close to the straight journalist when they were all boys. Their cover is an archeological cruise on the luxurious Alexandros.

The hero is definitely David Talbot, playboy painter, who renames himself Evan in a first step at leaving his old girl-chasing identity behind and recognizing himself as a Gay man. Openly Gay Hamish Saunders is a devoted school teacher friend persuaded into the plot. With them and against them are a host of secondary characters who are very hard to sort out because they gain little depth until three-fourths of the novel has developed.

The attempted rescue precipitates revenge. An almost comic

disguise, a chase, intrigue, Messianic declarations, a kidnapping and inevitable violence — all are combined for a story of considerable originality. As Hamish and Talbot show what they are made of in the rescue attempt and its devious, bloody aftermath, they not only discover their love for each other but build new respect for Gay men in the straights around them. While one may wonder why it takes derring-do to replace homophobia with acceptance, the transformations are plausible here.

Not all the plot is equally believable. The appearance of the Alexandros at non-Moslem Rhodes, which just turns out to be the lair of the kidnappers, strains credulity just a bit.

The sex is slight, discreet, and terribly romantic. But perhaps that is just a well; Sitkin wants our attention elsewhere and for the most part has been skillful enough to hold it in suspense. ■

BOOK RACK

Prime Gay Lit

The Boy Harlequin and Other Stories

by Girard Kent
Gay Sunshine Press; \$7.95, paper

by Frank Howell

Gay literature is now in its prime. The wraps have been taken off and Gay writers can communicate with ease and grace. The full range of emotions and situations can be covered. Now that censorship has virtually disappeared we hope quality can be maintained and that the new freedom will not be heralded as a mere excuse to wallow in sensationalism.

Girard Kent has written fourteen Gay stories covering a variety of moods and characters. This collection constitutes a mixed bag, but six of these tales stand out.

"The Souvenir" concerns a boy who is taken prisoner by a German officer in a small French town during World War II. The lad manages to turn the tables on the military establishment.

"A Case of Blackmail" finds a teacher who is victimized not by a student but by another teacher. He seeks the help of friendly hustler.

"The Voice of Jefferson" leads us through the dilemma of a father who is deeply in love with a younger male. But will his son

accept the lover?

"Secrets" brings us a minister who learns his son is Gay after the boy has committed suicide. A friend offers some insight.

"The Man Who Would Speak For God" presents a minister who attempts to counsel a student and change his yearnings to heterosexuality. The student challenges his views of religion and the Bible.

"Roberto" presents a rancher who hires a Mexican family to help him with the annual harvest and discovers he is attracted to the grandson of one of the workers.

The lead story, "The Boy Harlequin," has a weak ending and seems to lack any sense of conviction. Here we have an 18-year-old Gay who suffers through his first affair and who must bear the usual heartaches.

Another comic tale, "The Splendiferous Dicks Affair," seems contrived and hastily thrown together.

There is nothing monumental here, but most of these lively little chronicles make for a pleasant evening of relaxing reading.

Lesbian Semanticist

Djuna: The Life and Times of Djuna Barnes

by Andrew Field
G.P. Putnam's Sons; \$16.95

by John D. Dolan

Djuna Barnes, who died in 1982 just after her 90th birthday, is mainly remembered, if she's remembered at all, for her novel *Nightwood* (1936). I hope this biography will change all that, for she was, by any standards, a lady of integrity and talent.

Some readers of this biography may have problems with it.

In the first place, Field isn't entirely at ease with the idea of Lesbians in Paris in the 1920s. But, and it's a big one, it should also be remembered that Djuna Barnes said, "I'm not a Lesbian. I just love Thelma." That stormy relationship lasted ten years. Barnes never married.

In the second place, Field doesn't tell Barnes' story in the usual chronological order, a fact I liked because a) when he returns to "old" information he always brings with him some new and expanded ideas, and b) there were periods in Barnes' life when there wasn't much to tell. Barnes was a true eccentric. If you don't like her, you'll call her misanthropic. She didn't seem to be much of a talker, but when she did open her mouth she was

a true wit, and about this and her milieu, as well as about her talent and that iron-clad integrity, Field is analytical and respectful.

He's also done his homework. The facts, including the ones about Barnes' eccentric family and the rather surprising one that before she went to Paris she was a successful free-lance journalist in New York, are all here. What resonates in my mind are the personal qualities of a woman (however she's labeled) who, for instance, knew and liked both James Joyce and T.S. Eliot, but who would not (or could not) jump through the hoops which were and are necessary for a literary career. Much admired by other writers, she was ignored by the general public.

What this biography does well is show how atypical a member Djuna Barnes was of what Gertrude Stein called "the lost generation." There are 26 pages of well-distributed and unique illustrations and photographs, a Bibliography and Sources which is a complete reference to the times, and a shorter but complete Index.

Good Trash

Moritz!

by Bob Herron
Calamus Books; \$6.95, paper

by Frank Howell

The formula is not unusual. Young man from the sticks goes to New York in search of adventure. Young man arrives, stays at the YMCA, meets handsome friends, has a Gay fling, and then it's time for departure.

The plot is easy to digest, the characters are skin deep, and the mind undergoes a minimum of strain.

But for many readers, both Gay and otherwise, light campy sagas like *Moritz!* constitute one of life's guilty pleasures. We rationalize such enjoyment by saying we want to relax between heavy chores.

Moritz Jellico establishes headquarters at Stone House, a YMCA. He encounters Manley Hunke, an attractive, well-dressed stud, who works for an oil company. He is staying in New York prior to departing for the Middle East on assignment.

The events that unfold are all too familiar and *Moritz!* is a bit like reading a thin version of *The Lord Won't Mind*.

BACK TO BATON

Horse Shoes

PHILIP CAMPBELL

To a casual observer of the San Francisco Symphony, it might appear that departing Music Director Edo de Waart has already left for his native Holland and that Associate Conductor Jahja Ling has commandeered the vacant podium at Davies Hall.

It's true that Mr. Ling does seem to be making an inordinate number of appearances lately, but Symphony regulars know that de Waart will return in the fall for his farewell season and that Ling will travel to Cleveland where he has accepted another assistantship.



Edo de Waart — leaving, but not yet gone.

Personally, I think this is probably the best situation for all concerned. While admiring Mr. Ling's dedication and level of involvement, I'm less enthusiastic about his directorial abilities.

It was a competent Ling who stepped in to conduct for an ailing de Waart recently and audience response was suitably warm. It might be remembered, however, just who laid the original groundwork.

Subsequent programs have revealed Ling as a satisfactory, though hardly scintillating, interpreter. Almost only counts in Horse Shoes, though, and Jahja Ling's concerts have been more notable for their programming than performance levels.

JAWS II

Just when you thought it was safe to hear the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 for the umpteenth time, along comes a pianist like Leon Bates to make you wish it might be retired permanently.

The dismal occasion was the annual "All San Francisco Concert" sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank in an attempt to bring classical music to audiences who can't afford the usual Symphony tariff. Too bad the evening snacked more of un-enlightened patronage than superior music making. Just because it was a cut rate concert doesn't mean it

should have been a bargain basement performance.

Mr. Bates' credentials seem to be in order, and anyone can have an off night, but this far off? I know some eyebrows will raise at this, but was he thought a better choice as soloist for a community out-reach concert simply because he is black? Whatever the obscure reason, he managed to turn a showpiece into an instrument of torture.

Mr. Ling managed to salvage his slightly tarnished reputation the following week with a program that included two charming oddities by the unjustly neglected Ralph Vaughn Williams and a ragged but undeniably powerful reading of the marvelous Prokofiev Fifth Symphony.

The big news, however, was a blockbuster performance of Edgard Varese's "Ameriques." One need look no further than this disturbing composition for proof of the writer's unique voice, uninfluenced by fashion or criticism. Symphonic works that include non-musical sound effects are a jolt to a purist's sensibilities, but Varese's integration of the wailing siren in "Ameriques" is so important a factor in the overall effect that it would be impossible to imagine any other way.

"Ameriques" is never self-indulgent, but twenty minutes of exposed nerve ends are exhausting, and there were some lusty boos heard at the conclusion. The cheers of approval were also impassioned, however, and I was pleased to see Jahja Ling triumphant in the midst of the audience controversies.

WAS IT GOOD FOR YOU?

Another conductor of obvious good intentions and mixed results is Andrew Davis, Music Director of the Toronto Symphony. His work on disc and operatic assignments have earned him a reputation as a young man of promise and promise fulfilled.

Davis' recent guest shot with the San Francisco Symphony showed him to varied advantage. His interpretation is questionable but interesting. Conducting the first local performances of his own invention "La Serenissima" also proved him to be a writer of pleasing mood music.

No one will regard his composition as a major work, (He probably doesn't either); nonetheless it is charming and evocative. A brief musical paen to the wonderful city of Venice, it is full of lovely and amusing touches.

A perfect little concert opener, which is exactly what Davis used it for.

The rest of the evening was devoted to two sympathetic works by two such disparate composers as Beethoven and the Danish Genius Carl Nielsen. The similarity lies mainly in Nielsen's Beethovenian approach to the symphony as a classical rather than romantic form.

Nielsen, like Vaughn Williams, deserves much more attention in this country, hence the opportunity to hear the lyric treasures of a piece as infrequently performed as the "Espania" Symphony No. 3 becomes an event not to be missed. Andrew Davis delivered the goods, and if I had some difficulty with his choice of tempi, all was forgiven for the sheer pleasure of hearing this gorgeous music live.

Michael Steinberg's program notes urge listeners to purchase Herbert Blomstedt's recording of the Third. Of course, that's loyal of him, but I recommend Leonard Bernstein's alternately pulsing and languid version with the Royal Danish Orchestra. Once you've heard it I suspect you'll be a willing newcomer to the Nielsen cult.



Toronto's conductor Andrew Davis gets mixed results in recent performance.

After reading a particularly scathing review in the daily press of Pianist Ursula Oppens' playing of the "Emperor" Concerto, I was tempted to leave during intermission. I'd heard the Nielsen and I had no desire to go through another Leon Bates style keyboard massacre. Remembering that I usually disagree with the critic in question, I decided to stay. What a relief to find that Ms. Oppens had been maligned. Her performance was good and in some respects excellent. There were some blurry moments and her pedaling occasionally produced a tiny sound, but her overall technique is satisfying and I will look forward to hearing her again.

Maestro Davis had a curious idea about the way this old chestnut should sound and it resulted in the Beethoven sounding a little like Nielsen rather than the other way 'round. ■

BOOK RACK

Catty on a Hot White Page

No Stone Unturned

by Diana Rigg
Doubleday; \$16.95

by Michael Lasky

The myth that Gay men are just a bunch of bitchy queens is true only on occasion. As a generality, though, bitchiness knows no limits if you are a critic, especially a theatre critic. These writers are given easy targets and plenty of opportunity to prove their mastery.

Actress Diana Rigg, herself the victim of some of the nastiest barbs hurled onto the printed

page, thought it would be ever so amusing to assemble a collection of the worst that critics have written about theatre and film folk over the ages. Although her book is largely devoted to the British stage, that by no means reduces the humor of this collection — the smug reviewers over there are much more prone to vicious wit.

"Tom Courtenay as Charley's Aunt reminded me of Whistler's

Mother," wrote Frank Marcus.

"Glenda Jackson in *Women in Love* has a face to launch a thousand dredgers," declared a BBC critic.

The method Rigg used to compile these insults was to contact each actor and ask them personally for their favorite bad reviews. This was supported by additional archive research.

While the bulk of the book exposes the flashiest of catty-wit, it also serves as an excellent primer to the art of critique.

The only problem that I can find with it is its price. At \$17, the book, with less than 200 pages, seems incredibly overpriced. ■

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

SOFTBALL

Wait 'Til Next Year!

TOM VINDEED

The powerful Ambush softball team disposed of the Moby Dick squad so thoroughly that the only hope anyone else has is to "wait 'til next year."

Hit after hit, 21 to be exact, proved too much for the Whalers to overcome as they fell 16-1. Too bad the World Series wasn't played Sunday because no one would have touched the Ambush. Cliff Wilson and Henry Ford got together again, on the playing field, and paced the Ambush in pitching, hitting, and fielding.

In other league action, the Pendulum continued their winning ways with a 14-4 victory over Cafe Sn. Marcos. The Vagabond scored their second win of the season by downing Trax 12-5. Rick "Becky" Ritt pitched the Village to a 15-0 win over The Rookies. After the game he ate 12 Big Macs.

10-5 or 10-6, take your pick, as that is what the Pilsner Inn defeated the Phone Booth by. Seems there is a little confusion over the Phone Booth scoring #6. Darrell, if I'm the Godfather, I hereby make you the Godmother!

The DeLuxe scored 11 times against the Kokpit but gave up twice that amount in bowling 22-11. Is it possible that Mark Brown got a win and a save in this one?

The Rawhide, paced by December and Rick Cunningham home runs, thrashed Googie's 11-2. Mike Dolan's boys are on a roll, as they scored their fourth straight win.

This week's games are at Lang Field (Turk and Gough):

10 a.m. - Rawhide/Phone Booth and Googie's/Cafe Sn. Marcos.

11:45 a.m. - Pendulum/Rookies and Chaps/Village

1:30 p.m. - DeLuxe/Ambush and Trax/Moby Dick

3:15 p.m. - Pilsner Inn/Kokpit

STANDINGS

Cable Car Division

Ambush	6-0
Moby Dick	5-1
Pendulum	4-1
Rawhide	4-2
Chaps	2-3
Phone Booth	2-3
DeLuxe	1-6

Golden Gate Division

Pilsner Inn	5-1
Kokpit	5-1
Village	5-1
Vagabond	2-4
Trax	1-5
Googie's	1-5
Cafe Sn. Marcos	0-5
Rookies	0-6

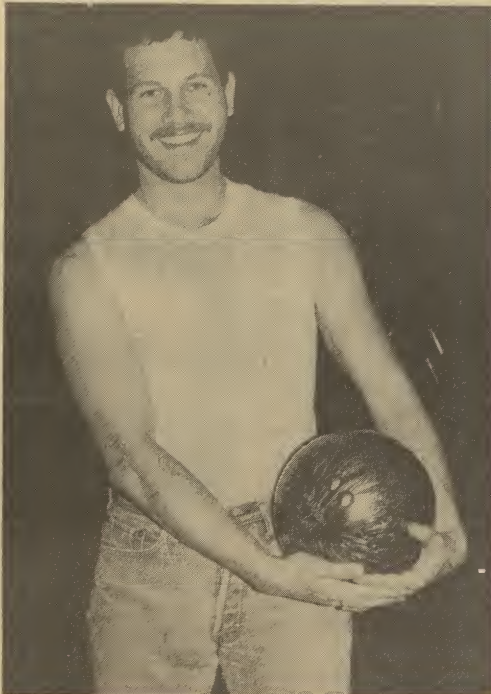
RUNNING

BUD BUDLONG

Time to Get a Leg Up for Summer Run Season

Personal Best - Most of the 800 runners at the starting line of GayRun '83 probably failed to notice the thin young man who started the race. He was Marvin Shipley, and he died on Sunday, March 25, after a long struggle with AIDS. Marvin was an early and enthusiastic member of the Lavender U Joggers where he met his lover, Weldon Washburn.

When the group reorganized as the FrontRunners in 1980, Marvin became the club's first secretary. In 1982, he served as treasurer. Even after the onset of AIDS in July of that year made it difficult, Marvin carried out his duties as treasurer with his characteristic sense of humor and concern for others. We were delighted when Marvin attended the awards banquet last October and the club's tenth anniversary meeting in January. Although shaky, he was optimistic and cheerful. Marvin loved the FrontRunners. He gave selflessly to the club and to all who knew him. We love you and we'll miss you, Marvin.



Most Improved Bowler in the Tavern Guild's Winter League, recently concluded, is Leigh DeTar. (Photo: Rink)

Local Bowlers Roll to Seattle Tourney

The International Gay Bowling Organization's (IGBO) tournament rolls into Seattle over the Memorial Day weekend. From the news that is trickling down from the Great Northwest, the Seattle city government, business community, and bowling organizations are going all-out to make it a joyous memory for everyone.

Of course, at the mention of IGBO, 36 of us remember IGBO '83 Chicago, how much fun we had, and how well organized it was. The Chicago hosts used school busses to shuttle us between the hotel and the bowling alley every half hour, they had free coffee and donuts available for the first bowling shift each morning, and there were smiling people sitting behind information tables. These were not monumental things, but they were the small things that made some of us strangers feel welcome.

The San Francisco contingent did not do so well in Chicago last year. Only one San Francisco team, The Four Plays, managed to place in the top three. This year there seems to be a deeper determination by the San Francisco contingent to place the name of our fair city at the top of the list.

Speaking of better bowling, have you noticed that no bowler in our sister league, The Tavern Guild Thursday League, has achieved a 600+ series yet? (We're waiting, TGThBL.) They do have some very nice 200+ games, and the League Secretary, Al Welinski, has started awarding 200+ pins in his league this season. Good going, Al.

While we are on the subject of 200+, here are the oh-so-inspiring 200+ bowlers of 5/2/84.

Tom Randall (Gay Sports)	200, 242
Roger Spencer (Wednesday Washouts)	(638 series) 207, 233
Andres Colon (Park Bowl)	223
Hang Givan (Pilsner Potlickers)	(623 series) 214, 220
Rick McGarry (Trojan Ends)	215
Mal Garcia (Park Bowl)	212
Larry Kramer (Park Bowl)	209
Bob Mack (Park Bowl)	206
Ken Wells (Cafe San Marcos)	206
Glen Mautz (Grady's)	204
Ralph Bremner (Play With It, Ltd.)	204
Jerry De Young (Pendulum)	201
Randy Meadows (Scenic Hyway Tours)	200

Included in the above list are four new 200+ Club members and two new 600+ Club members for this season. Congratulations to all members of both clubs. I hope you are all planning on wearing your ABC patches and League pins in Seattle.

The TGWednesday League will not be bowling on May 23 because 40 of its bowlers are leaving the following day for Seattle and need the time in which to prepare for the trip. Good luck to each of you planning to compete in the gigantic Seattle IGBO tournament. Your community is proud of you.

★ ★ ★

Bay to Breakers - The annual madness strikes Sunday, May 20, at 8 a.m. when 100,000 runners set out across the city in a 7.6-mile costume party which is also the world's biggest foot-race. FrontRunners will host colleagues from New York, Los Angeles, and San Diego by providing housing, a carbo-load dinner, and a post-race picnic. The dinner, on Saturday, May 19, will be at the Randall Junior Museum at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10. For reservations, call 441-6460 by May 12. The picnic on Sunday will be at Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, following the race. It is pot luck. Call 587-1893 to find out where to leave your food at the start of the race.

★ ★ ★

GayRun '84 - Applications for the race will soon be available. Plans for the fifth annual event are progressing under the leadership of Race Director Edd Powell. The race will once again be a benefit for people with AIDS. Last year \$4,300 was raised for services for AIDS patients. The club is confident that it can raise even more this year. GayRun '84 will be held Sunday, July 8, at 9 a.m. in Golden Gate Park. GayRun '84 will be dedicated to the memory of Front-Runner Marvin Shipley.

★ ★ ★

Running Tip for May - Beginning runners often run too fast, don't enjoy it, and don't stick with it. Here's how to figure out the right speed for you. Run with a friend and talk with each other as you run. Go as fast as you can, while still talking normally. No huffing or puffing allowed. This will be your correct training pace. As your aerobic capacity increases, so will your training pace. The "talk test" will continue as a reliable measure of your best training pace.

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SCOREBOARD

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES

TEAM STANDINGS

TG MONDAY LEAGUE (Week 3 of 25 - as of 4/30/84) League Average: 686

1. Grace Kelly Drv And	10	2
2. Perfect Petals	10	2
3. New Image	8	4
4. Crystal Springs	8	4
5. Amazing Six Graces	8	4
6. Grand Central Sta	7	5
7. Pendulum I	7	5
8. Mommy's Queerest	7	5
9. Team #15	7	5
10. Pilsner Pick-Ups	7	5
11. Doris Day Care Ctr	7	5
12. EC Midtown Boys	6	6
13. Twin Peaks	6	6
14. San Francisco Gym	6	6
15. Park Bowl	5	7
16. Body Center	5	7
17. Team #14	5	7
18. Renegade	4	8
19. Men's Room	3	9
20. Team #4	3	9
21. Global Travel	1	11
22. Team 22	0	12

TG WEDNESDAY LEAGUE (Week 5 of 24 - as of 5/2/84) League Average: 738

1. Park Bowl	14	6
2. Gay Sports Mag	14	6
3. Anonymity Reigns	14	6
4. Japantown Bowl	13½	6½
5. Grady's	12½	7½
6. Wednesday Washouts	12	8
7. Cafe San Marcos	12	8

SAN FRANCISCO POOL ASSOCIATION FINAL STANDINGS

DIVISION 1

White Swallow Storm	102-74	.579
Pendulum Pirates	99-77	.562
Maud's	90-86	.511
DeLuxe Rebels	87-88	.497
Pilsner Doughboys	86-90	.488
Arena Hellbreds	90-95	.457
Brig Inmates	78-98	.443
Village Tribe	76-100	.431
Pipeline Deaf	51-125	.289

DIVISION 2

Feb's	116-60	.659
Rainbow	115-61	.653
Stallion Steeds	110-66	.625
White Swlw Wreckers	103-73	.585
Chaps Outlaws	99-77	.562
Castro Sta Express	82-94	.465
Macante's Moondnrs	71-105	.403
PB Parallel Pockets	66-110	.375
Peg's Pugs	62-114	.352

DIVISION 3

Stallion Stampede	113-63	.642
Pendulum Chaos	99-77	.562
Monte's MARTYRS	97-79	.551
Arena Centurions	93-83	.528
Bear Shots	87-89	.494
Village Knights	87-89	.494
Feb's Snow	84-92	.471
Castro Sta Identificatn	68-108	.386
Academy Plebes	62-114	.352

DIVISION 4

DeLuxe Spare Tires	121-55	.687
Arena Warriors	102-74	.579
Peg's Promises	102-74	.517
Academy Cadets	86-90	.488
Brig Guards	86-90	.488
Pilsner Ltd.	86-90	.488
DC Rough Riders	84-92	.477
Bear Claws	75-101	.426
Maud's Squad	73-103	.414

Social/Sexual Skills Workshop

In an age of growing consciousness about sexual health, clear communication between possible social/sexual partners becomes ever more important.

The workshop, Social/Sexual Relationship Skills #301, meets from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day at the Forum's Center, 1523 Franklin Street, S.F. Pre-registration is required and cost is \$95 per person, \$55 per full-time student and \$170 per couple.

For further information contact Dr. Phyllis Lyon, 928-1133. Graduate and/or Continuing Education credit is available.

8. Pilsnr Pntless Sisters	11½	8½
9. Play With It, Ltd.	11	9
10. Scenic Hwyway Tours	11	9
11. Stallion Stampede	10	10
12. DK's Unmntnbls	10	10
13. Alleycats	10	10
14. S.F. Eagle	10	10
15. Pilsner I	9½	10½
16. Hr Tdy Gn Tmrw	8½	11½
17. Trojan Ends	8	12
18. Pilsner Potlickers	8	12
19. Pendulum	8	13
20. Pilsner II	6	14
21. Animals	3½	16½
22. Sweet Inspiration	3	17

TG THURSDAY LEAGUE (Week 4 of 20 - as of 4/26/84) League Average: 569

1. Park Bowl	14	2
2. Four Winds	12	4
3. Alamo Sq Sln #1	10	6
4. Kokpit Angels	9	7
5. Queen Mary's Pub	7	9
6. Pig Pins	7	9
7. Alamo Square #2	1	11
8. 132 Bush	0	12

Bowling scores compiled by Jerry R. De Young.

S.F. TRACK & FIELD

S.F. Track & Field Club Dazzles Sacramento

by Rick Thoman

Confidence is running high for the San Francisco Track & Field Club after a dazzling performance at the Sacramento Relays on April 28.

Leading the three-man contingent from the SFT&FC was Bernard Turner, who competed in three events. Running in the sub-master age group of 35-39, Turner started his day with a second place and a silver medal in the 400 meters. His time of 54.6 seconds was gratifying this early in the season, and Turner feels his training is just beginning to show.

"I know what I have to work on now," explained Turner, "getting out fast instead of playing catch-up. I also need to start doing some work out of the starting blocks."

Not having done any practice with the blocks didn't hinder his performance as he went on to place third in the 100 meters in 11.6 and then came back in the 200 meters with another second place/silver medal finish in the time of 24.6.

Bringing home the gold for the S.F. Track & Field Club was newcomer Earl Bryant, who had joined the team and started workouts only three months ago. Bryant was on cloud nine after he dashed to a first place finish in the 30-34 year-old age group in the 100 meters in a time of 11.9. With the small amount of time Bryant had been training, the effort was especially pleasing and indicative of the potential he has in store for the rest of the track season.

Also in a debut for the SFT&FC was Ken Patterson, who, at 22 years of age, raced in the highly competitive collegiate bracket. Patterson placed 9th out of 16 runners in the 100 meters with an outstanding early season time of 11.2. Patterson also shows potential as an outstanding sprinter for the club and will be competing in the long and/or triple jump as well.

Turner summed up the club's performance at the Sacramento Relays as "a very good effort this early in the season, especially with the competition as good as it was here. We are looking forward to coming back and competing here again next year and right now we've got our sights set on the Pacific Association/TAC Track & Field Championships on May 19."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Elsewhere, Doug Brooks finished 14th in a large field of runners competing in the D.A.M. Run, a 5-kilometer race held in Golden Gate Park on April 29 to help kick off Deaf Awareness Month. The race was organized by the SFT&FC's Garet Stark.

Stark was also busy competing in the Rapp's Triathlon. In a three-man team from the club, Stark ran the opening 3.4 miles of the triathlon, handing off to Rick Thoman, who biked the next 7½ miles, and finished with Frank Demby swimming the final three-fourths of a mile. The team finished 325 out of 800 entries.

SFT&FC MAY CALENDAR

Thursday, 5/10	Practice @ McAteer HS, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Portola Dr. & O'Shaughnessy Blvd., SF
Saturday, 5/12	Los Gatos Twilight Meet. For details call Bernard Turner, 821-7674.
Sunday, 5/13	Practice @ McAteer HS, 11:00 a.m. Coaching session by Gay Games' Dr. Tom Waddell
Tuesday, 5/15	Practice @ McAteer HS, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, 5/17	Practice @ McAteer HS, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 5/19	TAC/Pacific Division Open & Masters Track Championship, Los Gatos, CA. For details call Bernard Turner, 821-7674.
Sunday, 5/20	Practice @ McAteer HS, 11:00 a.m. Bay to Breakers, 12K, 8:00 a.m. start @ Spear & Howard Sts.
Tuesday, 5/22	Practice @ McAteer HS, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, 5/24	Practice @ McAteer HS, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, 5/27	Practice @ McAteer HS, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, 5/29	Practice @ McAteer HS, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, 5/31	Practice @ McAteer HS, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Rick Thoman at 641-1786 or Bernard Turner at 821-7674.

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BLACK LASHES

Cafe 'Ole

KARL STEWART

When the Ramirez family of Don Ramon's holds court, it's a "heavy thing." We're talking "hardy party." Cinco de Mayo, for those of you who've been living in Antarctica, is Mexican Independence Day. It calls for a fiesta of monstrous proportions. The Eleventh Street restaurant rocked for two solid days with the brass and strings of Mariachi, a Trio (roll the 'R' when you say that; a band of 6 or less, made up of folk instruments) and lovely dancers folkloric.

Tony Valentine and John Hedu, who operate Something Wonderful Florist inside the cafe, supplied a bounty of spring flowers which erupted from everywhere. They, with brother Jay Ramirez, manned the huge new 60 foot bar with its Spanish arbor detail. Jay's sister, Leo, commands the kitchen and for fiesta, ruled the buffet tables, jammed with festival food. Zack (voted hunk of the day) and sister Nati greeted the throngs of partiers and well-wishers as Ramirez' sister #3 Lucie served as gracious hostess about the floor. This hard working and generous family has embraced the So/M leather community as they do all of their straight clientele; with warmth and dignity. A D.R. regular, Marilyn, says "This cafe and especially the new bar has been their dream. They really deserve all this success." Ditto!

★ ★ ★

This society rarely offers devotions to human sexuality, much less are there places where that devotion is played out fully. Two magical places of that caliber have passed from us: The Cal-

dron closed last weekend and The Catacombs two weeks hence. The management and staffs of both exalted sex beyond the animal to the spiritual, made the experience something rare and rich. They provided for any height or depth (!!!). Now it's gone. But we celebrate the change and hope it brings to us a broader more expansive place in the road. Tom would have seconded that.

Another example of So/M's shifting sands: well, maybe we're talkin' boulders here... Two big institutions were eliminated this week — ABC's Hart to Hart and JC Corbett (from the SF Eagle). Lotsa conflicting stories as to whether JC was fired or quit. No matter, at 4 p.m. last Wednesday, Damron storms Chez Mollet and snatched Terry Thompson out from under Manager Don's nose and firmly planted him in charge of the Eagle and spent the evening there with co-owners Pat McAdams and Jay Lavine to make sure the transition went smoothly. Who should be bartending in the midst of this melee: Bill Coates, Terry's longtime assistant manager at the Arena. Who should pop in for a few cocktails from about 10 p.m. to midnight in a cheery mood, JC(???). Believe me when I say it was a very weird night. Terry assures the community that all commitments made by the SF Eagle for the future, will be met (in spite of the rumors to the contrary). Onward.

Seen in the Eagle, tan and trim and as big a rascal as ever is David West. We hear that he's working at Bojangle's/Scandals — but I'm not saying a word.

Well, by this time next week, we should have a complete cast of characters in the cast of San Franciscans who will represent us to the International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago at the end of the month. The Brig finished first and hold Jake up as the man who will defend a couple of previous Brig winners and many other finalists in the Windy City. This Sunday at 8 p.m., Chaps will hold their final heat, three bulky men including Australian power lifter Peter Todd, who won last Sunday's contest. The Eagle held one competition last Tuesday which will be reported upon next issue.

More contest news: Mark Abramson will produce yet another competition at The Woods. The Mr. Russian River Contest was a big Spring blow-out of the RR Gay Community last year after a long rainy winter of cabin fever and no one in the bars to fuck but sisters. This year they're goin' for it again with a week of celebration and party. The May 20 main contest at the Woods will be led up to by a kickoff bash at Drumm's Saturday, May 12. Sunday, May 13 RRR Resort will host a sunny fete for all the contestants. The Woods is next on Monday as they offer cabaret night with Kenny "Bette Midler" Sacha and another evening with the River Hunks. The Rainbow Cattle Co. will hold a Wednesday feast and drink-off beginning at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 17, its Molly Brown's with a margarita party and Friday, May 18, 3-5 p.m., the River Village serve up a poolside swim suit preview. That evening, The Woods will begin the first round of competition at midnight with the men in formal attire (opera length gloves??).

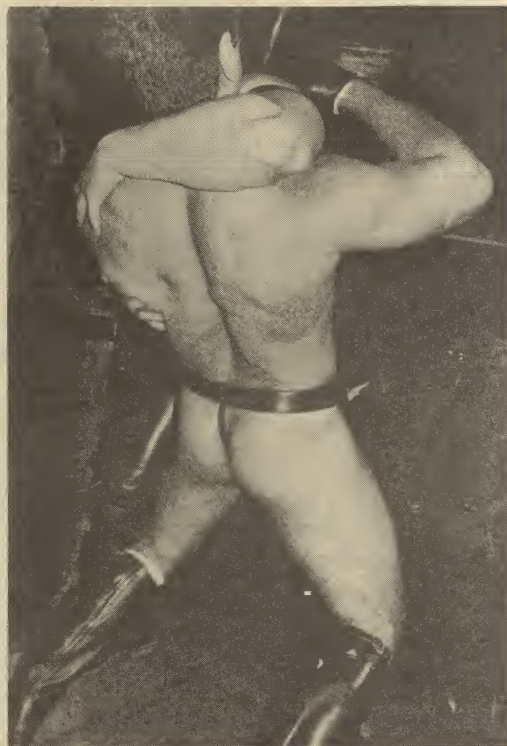
Swim suit comp. will be poolside at The Woods at 3 p.m., Saturday and at midnight we'll see Levi's and T's on the main stage with Viola Wills belting out "Stormy Weather." The finals are slated for 4 p.m. and includes Tate Dance, BBQ and the Falcon Dance troop on the hoof. The winner will see a \$500 increase in his tax liability this year, appear in an ad campaign for the Russian River Gay Business Ass., and ride on the RR Float in the Gay Freedom Day Parade. Not rich, but famous.

CLUB LICKS

At an open meeting Friday, May 11 at 8:30 pm the CMC will announce their run site for their Great Western Traditions Run (scheduled for the end of June). The site, just outside Hollister is about an hour and fifteen minutes from here, unless Prez David Sarathain is driving, then you can expect to be on the road for more than two hours. It seems David drove some of the CMC leadership to view the site last Sunday and ended up in Livermore.

The men will also announce their joint intown run with the SFGDI's Box Lunch Social for Sunday, May 20; check in at Pilsner Inn, 10-11 a.m.

This Sunday the Constantines will host an intown run called The 12 Incher, with check in at



Disarmingly Attractive, No? Some of the steamy action at the fantasy event of the Mr. Drummer contest at The Woods. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Febe's at noon, cost \$5 advance (bought from members) or \$6 at the check in. Poker is the game of the day and you'll be picking up a hand as you go. A big buffet and lotsa drink specials will be offered at the SF Eagle, 3-6 p.m.

Mark "New Blood" Depke has been shown around town by some interesting men. Saturday he manned the door at the Village where Bruce Harrelson raised over \$160 for the GSL. Bruce kept introducing him. At the Mr. Chaps contest Fred Stone sported a mustashed beauty on his arm. It's too bad deb parties are out of vogue.

ON THE LIST

Cinco de Mayo was celebrated also by the Court and north of Market gang with a fiesta at the Rathskeller (Polk and Turk). We saw folks from all corners of the realm: Remy, Ken and Sable, Bucky and Crystal were greeted by nobility from as far away as Sacramento and as close as ACIE's Tony Valentine and Nova and Michael Lei. Tenderloin Petal's (Michael and Gerald) supplied the flowers and are still high from a 7 Years in Bizz Bash, combined with a 10 year anniversary of marriage.

Tony and staff served a tasty Mexican dinner (included in the 8 buck chit) and \$2 (small) margaritas, which you had to be rich but not famous to attend this one.

Now, instead of describing the ensuing show, we will disclose Lashes' List for mounting a drag show:

A. Start on time, no matter who the fuck is or isn't in the house. (profane!) B. No one does more than one number, limited to 4 minutes, no matter who she

thinks she is. C. No more than 6 performers per set. D. No more than three sets. E. No more than 15 minute intermissions (less if you can get away with it). F. If she's done the number more than twice in the last 6 months in front of the same audience in the same city, cut the bitch, no matter how good she is (even Liza doing "New York" gets tired).

I must give Gary (eyeing the Grand Ducal crown) and QM Andrea, with Miss Sorelles aid, credit for picking up Collette Le Grande's dirty laundry and making it clean and bright.

★ ★ ★

The Midwest and South have these wonderful drag palaces where really professional shows are mounted. These are so good, with such believable lipsync, that they attract the attention of most corners of society. For some reason the West Coast seems to lack these bistros of illusion. This may be changing, however. Last Sunday, Grand Duchess Sable with a company of Sister Woman, Sandy Soreles, Desiree and Mr(?) Dolly ascended triumphantly to the stage of a little Eighteenth Street cabaret, with a musical revue of solid proportions.

Tommy Rose may be featured in a production in the New Nob Hill Theatre, which will be the City's first Showplace in some time.

East Bay impresario Nova Lei, with husband Michael, are eyeing Lipp's basement show-room as a possible cabaret location for their production company. Interesting movement.

If you've ever seen Tatiana on the roof of the Eagle or Naomi Del Rey MCing on cabaret

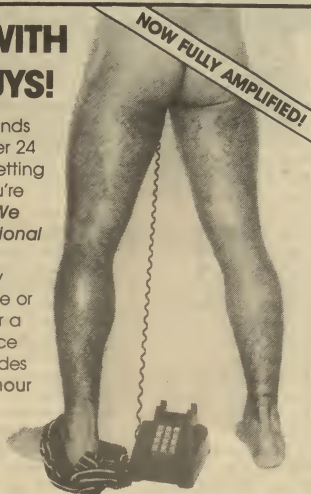
(Continued on page 30)

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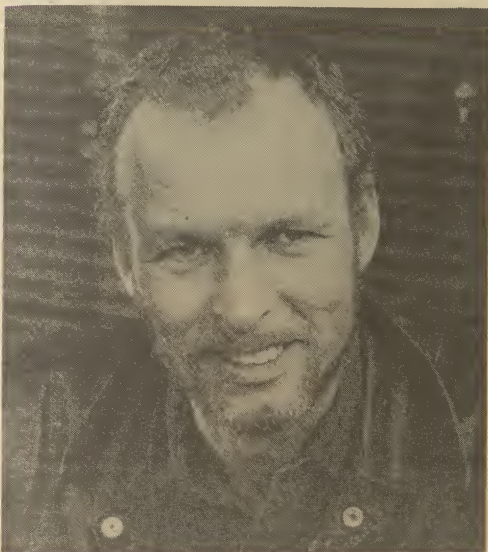
The Man I Loved: Tom Rogers

The Last Hours of a Gay Fighter

by Red Bentzinger

In keeping with Tom Rogers' call for brotherhood and love — and to express my heartfelt Thank You to all our friends and acquaintances — I'd like to share with you some of the events of the past few months.

Last year when Sonny Padilla first asked Tom Rogers and me to be on the cover of his forthcoming recording "It's Your Body" (donated to the AIDS fight), we were proud to help. The photo for the album cover captured my "Cowboy from Wyoming" at all his best. Little then did I realize that one day our lives would be so affected by this dread disease.



Tom Rogers (Photo: Rink)

In the interim, Tom continued his efforts for the cause through his column, "Rivets," in the *Bay Area Reporter* promoting and attending numerous fundraisers. I donated my Leather Teddybears wherever possible to several AIDS auctions and life just kept getting better and better for us as our love grew. Just before our first anniversary together, Tom started losing a bit of weight and seemed to tire easily. Over the Christmas season everybody gets tired — what with so many functions, parties, and things to do — for a columnist it was even more hectic. Tom had to try to cover them all; even his own surprise birthday party held just before Christmas.

Early 1984 found Tom at a local doctor who prescribed antibiotics. Three weeks later Tom was no better and congestion had set in — with a cough that seemed to deepen almost daily. During one of our usual long, deep discussions, I suggested a test for AIDS combined with a trip to the hospital to get help for

the persistent cough. We talked for hours, airing all the possibilities and how we would handle them. No matter how it was viewed, it always came out the same — love does not fly out the window because sickness has entered. We were prepared for any eventuality and our love for each other never faltered; in fact, the threat of a health danger only drew us closer together.

The February diagnosis resulted in pneumocystis pneumonia complicated by a rare form of cancer, Berkitt's Lymphoma, found present in both Tom's lymph nodes and bone marrow. The seeming hopelessness of it all heightened when one small lesion taken from his ankle was found to be KS (Kaposi's sarcoma). At this point "Suicide" reared its ugly head for a fleeting moment, but was quickly cast aside by Tom's determination to fight. Our decision — to now more than ever reconfirm our love for one another and take life one day at a time.

The staff at San Francisco General Hospital and Ward 5B as well as the seemingly never ending line of doctors were as relentless as Tom in their fight. A month and a day later his lungs had cleared and he was allowed home. The remaining cancers, as far as possible, would be treated on an "outpatient" basis.

On that day, March 21, at 7:35 p.m. we left S.F. General. By 9 p.m. Tom was in his leathers and on stage at an AIDS fundraiser at Chaps. He was there to show others that their efforts were appreciated and that there WAS hope. Tom joked about arriving in such a rush that he was still wearing his hospital "jewelry." This brought a laugh from the crowd. Tom's appearance helped set the tone for the evening, which saw over \$9,000 raised in our fight to combat AIDS. The brotherhood and love the audience demonstrated that night renewed Tom's determination to turn statistics around and win his fight for survival.

Four days later his white cell count had fallen (as expected from the chemotherapy) and it was back to S.F. General. Tom progressed well, maintaining a healthy appetite, and his wonderful positiveness toward survival.

Three weeks later he looked almost healthier than some of those struggling to help him and others in Ward 5B. Again he was allowed home. After a few days rest, we were dining at one of Tom's favorite restaurants when he ate three times what I did! Life looked good! Good Friday found us relaxed at home with some of Tom's favorite records sharing the love which had constantly grown for us over the previous 16 months. Plans were made for Easter sunrise service at Grace Cathedral and the ballet on Tuesday.

By late Saturday night Tom began breathing with difficulty and seemed to lose mobility in his legs. I called the ambulance, knowing that it was time for another drop in his white cell count. Emergency wanted to put him on a respirator until he could stabilize. I said, "Yes." His eyes opened and he seemed disoriented by the bright lights. I gave him a hug, kissed his cheek and told him that he was in the hospital and to let the doctors help him. He quietly half smiled, said, "Red, I love you," and lay back to be helped. During this procedure Tom suffered a cardiac arrest and the doctors fought for over 20 minutes to save him. Finally the EKG showed no heartbeat and emitted its long monotone sound of



Mourners for Tom Rogers embrace. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

a soul passing. The doctors were disconnecting the EKG when one yelled, "I have a pulse!" It shot up to a strong 100. I smiled. God love him — he was still fighting. He stabilized, although the doctors told me that his heart had stopped long enough that there might be permanent brain damage. Tom was moved upstairs to Intensive Care where he suffered yet another cardiac arrest. While fighting frantically to save him one doctor turned to me and I said — "Tell me up front" — to which he answered, "Maybe we can keep him alive for an hour or two or maybe a day, but ultimately — there is no hope and he will be in great pain." I replied through tear-filled eyes,

"That man has suffered more pain in the last two months than anyone should have to bear in a lifetime. If there is no hope, then let him die in peace and with dignity." Tom passed away about 3 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning — the time the tomb of Christ is said to have opened nearly 2,000 years ago. Quietly I held him and kissed him goodbye — on this physical plane — the most wonderful, loving, caring man I have ever had the joy of sharing my life with.

Although a part of me died with Tom, a lot of him lives on in me and in countless others whose lives he enriched with his love, friendship, knowledge, and wisdom.



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Tom Rogers was memorialized at the Columbarium. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

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Alexis for Days! The Rainbow Deaf Society staged a "Dynasty Party" this past weekend; costume winners are shown above. (Photo: Rink)

LASHES

(Continued from page 28)

stages about, or Flo behind the Village's boards, it occurs to me that these are big girls. This thought occurred to tiny Phoebe

Planters too. On Saturday, June 9, she will produce The Amazon Girl Contest of 1984; the beauty contest for small people in big bodies. You must be 6 feet or more in height and/or weigh over 200 lbs. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, May 10: Parkway Kickoff, Candidate for Miss Gay SF, New Bell, 8 p.m.

Bare Chest Contest, Arena, 10 p.m., Mr. June bout.

Friday, May 11: Randy Johnson Birthday, (Manager of the Year), Febe's 4-8 p.m.

Empress Remy Birthday, Kokpit, 8 p.m., also Drewski & Nysburg.

CMC Open Meeting, Ramrod, 8:30 p.m., announcing run site, theme, new members, newest prospective

In Concert, Jim Gilman, Church of the Advent, 261 Fell, \$5., 8 p.m.

King and Queen of Hearts of San Francisco Kickoff, Roadrunner, 9 p.m.; candidates King: Ray, Tony, Tim, Mike D'Yke; Queen: Darlene, Desiree, Michelle, Davita.

Saturday, May 12: Johnson Sisters Picnic, Men's Room, kickoff 9-10 a.m., \$25. includes bus to Russian River, open bar at Molly Browns, food, et al. Return 6 p.m.

King and Queen of Hearts of No.

Calif. Investiture, Lipps 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 13: Pajama Dance Party, Ramrod, 6 a.m./Noon. Hosts: Harley, Michael Bowman & Floyd. 12 Incher, Constantines MC intown run, Kickoff Febe's Noon, \$5. End at SF Eagle 3-6 p.m. w/buffet and drink specials.

Tessie's Tribute to Lori Shannon, Deja Vu, 4 p.m. 7 p.m. Consuela Del Rio Kickoff, Candidate for Miss Gay SF, Deja Vu, 9 p.m.

Monday, May 14: Seventh Anniversary, Rick Carle & Pat "Mame" McGonigle (the Emperor and Mrs. Eisenhower) 8 p.m. featuring a Mame look-alike-contest. Hosts: the Mint & Bruce Harrelson.

Tuesday, May 15: Tony's Kickoff, King of Hearts candidate, Ram's Head, 7:30 p.m.

Adrian Kickoff, Candidate for Miss Gay SF, Church St. Station, 8 p.m. ICF Meeting, Chez Mollet (rear) 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16: All Candidates Night, Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco, Kimo's, 8 p.m.

and contest at 7:30, costs a fin and will be held at M&M theater loft at 10 Rogers.

The Empress Remy will have a marathon birthday party beginning at the Kokpit Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday the Johnson Sister Picnic leaves from the Men's Room at 10 a.m. (cost \$25 for everything. Space very limited). She will then preside over the investiture of the King and Queen of Hearts of No/Cal at Lipp's at 7 p.m. Sunday because she is a bike club member in good standing; then it's the 12 Incher (afore mentioned), and finally Kimo's will dig luau pits in the second floor disco and we will hula the night away — this one begins at 5 p.m.

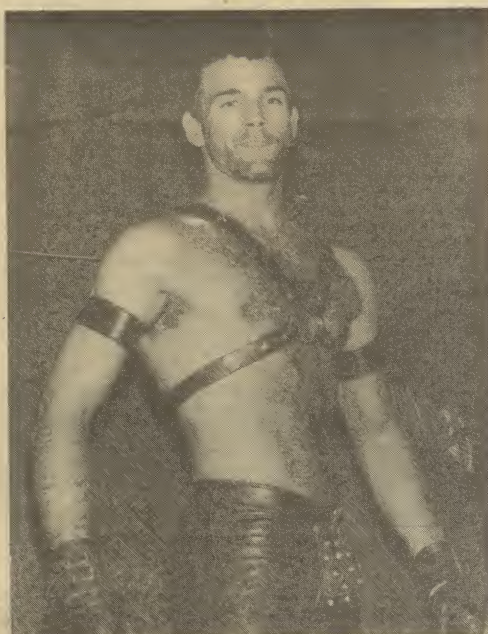
Monday is Rich Carle (Emperor) and Pat McGonigle's 7th Anniversary. The Mint and Bruce (Sec. of St) is hosting a cocktail party at 8 p.m. featuring a Mame look alike contest (Pat is referred to as Mame). Don't know whether to dress up like Ma. Eisenhower or Mrs. Carle???

I stand corrected: The Closet Ball was started by not Flame but another drag queen in 1973

— Marcus. This year's Queen has been found to be an LA Pro, they say, so Daniel "Consuelo" Castanada of La Posada ascends.

COMMUNITY LASH

It's rare that a group of Queens actually gather popular opinion in a positive way in order to enable (so to speak) individual effort. The Grand Ducal Council with Naomi Del Ray and Matt Brown at the reins held The Community Awards Sunday in the sun of the SF Eagle patio. Unlike past years, the voting and tabulation was done elsewhere and what was a six hour ordeal last year was clipped



1984's Mr. Leather San Francisco, Jake Banks, at the Brig. (Photo: Rink)

off in two hours and 15 minutes. They even managed to lionize bunnies, have a beer bust and cram a drag show in and still have a break.

Here is a list of some of the laurels garnered: Work Horse - Bobby Pace; Best Community Media - B.A.R.; Hunk-of-the-Year - Mike of the Pilsner; Best Restaurant - Fickle Fox; Best Entertainer - Desiree; Best Bartenders - Castro-Chuck E. at the Men's Room, Tenderloin-Rita at the Ram's Head, Polk-Mark F. Freise of New Bell, Silver Strip-Dixon of The Mint, So/M-Ralph of Covered Wagon.

There were a number of write-in categories: Sable walked away with both Most Active Royal Title and Personality of the Year. Myra took Woman of the Year and Bobby Pace is our Best Man. I am privileged to have been voted columnist of the year (thank you).

Randy Johnson is the people's choice as Best Bar Manager. Rink was voted Top Photog and the highlight of the day was Miss Piggy's acceptance speech as Best Camp Drag. Congratulations to the winners.

K. Stewart

SWEET LIPS SEZ . . .

Mothers' Weekend

Gilmore's at Hyde and California will be celebrating their Sixth Anniversary with a bang-up party on Sunday, May 20, from 5 'til 7 p.m., so do try to make this one, as the staff and management do a bang-up job; right, Dick Petroff?

La Cage aux Folles has a limited number of tickets for the grand opening preview still available in the \$25 and \$75 ranges. The S.F. Gay Marching Band will be performing outside the Golden Gate Theatre that evening in their gorgeous new (red and black) uniforms as well as the Hayward Raw Raws . . . this should be a spectacular evening, so do get your tickets now before they are all gone and you miss out. You can get them at the Gramophone on Castro Street. Remember, this should be a black tie affair, so try to do your best, as it will be on national TV and we do want to let the world know that this is the city that knows how to do it right.

On Saturday, May 12, from 6 p.m. on, there will be a party at the Gate at Pine and Jones celebrating the 32nd (?) birthday of their popular bartender, Joe Louis James Cappelletti. So come on up to the Gate and join in the festivities with him and all of us . . . canapes and a lot of fun.

The original Glory Holes/South of Market Club is having a Garage Sale on Saturday the 19th from 10 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. That is on 6th Street between Howard and Folsom, and everything goes including desks, heaters, books, and other personal memorabilia. Ten percent of all sales will go to KS, so get

on down and see what you can pick up cheaply — maybe even a wall or two that you want to remember . . . don't miss this one, Wayne Friday.

Yes, Reba is still on the plank at the Cinch on Polk Street and according to Hans is doing a great job even if he does have a nip or two during his shift . . . you looked nice the other evening with Big Bird and Jiggs, Reba.

Don't forget: this Sunday, the 13th, is Mother's Day and Bob Dunn is having a Mother's Day

Look-Alike Contest at the Hob Nob from 6 a.m. 'til Noon . . . so join in the festivities with him . . . prizes and food and, again, Bill Ward on the keyboard.

They are already working on floats for the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and I understand that Castro Station and the Polk Gulch Saloon are doing one that links the two bars together with a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge . . . that should be HOT . . . thank you, David.

Kimo's is having a birthday party on Sunday, May 13, at 5 p.m. for Empress Remy — no age is available at this time . . . do try to attend, as Kimo and staff are doing a great trip.

Yes, it is true . . . Lillian No-Title is between pictures — at liberty again.



Everyone got shifted up a notch in the '84 Closet Ball winner's circle, as the Miss 1st Place turned out to be a pro. No. 2 runner-up, Vera (above) became No. 1 runner-up. (Photo: Rink)

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What's in a Song?



If nothing else, the contrived controversy over the City's official song has promoted the Gay Men's Chorus, seen here (center) performing for the Board of Supervisors' deliberations on said weighty issue last week in the City Hall Rotunda. The singers are flanked by Supervisors Doris Ward and Carol Ruth Silver and, on the right, the guy who started it all, gonzo columnist Warren Hinckle. (Photos: Rink)

WILD AND WOOLLY

BOB WOOLHOUSE

'The Sound of Music' Revisited: "My Favorite Things"

Part I The Drag

Eye liner, lip gloss,
And red satin sashes;
Sparkle, mascara
On Fuller Brush lashes;
Two pair of pantyhose; spike heels with slings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Caftans and orchids,
But never the hula;
Smoking like Bette
And voice by Tallulah;
Jungle red fingernails; massive gold rings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

High camp and dishing
While done up like Venus;
Handsome butch escort
With opera length penis;
Fantasy Queen with a handful of Kings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Shades of burlesque
And the old Ziegfeld Follies;
Champagne on Polk Street;
A bustline like Dolly's;
The image of Lori . . . My God, how it clings!
These are a few of my favorite things.

If the gown rips,
If the wig slips,
If I'm just a fad,
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so sad.

Part II The Twink

Mustaches, teddy bears,
Tina, Sylvester;
Staying in Castro
Another semester;
The Levi/Lacoste look for after work flings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Biceps and workouts
And locker room showers;
Tales of the City;
A birthday with flowers;
Warm afterglow when the Gay Chorus sings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Poppers and pot to
Enliven the disco;
Houseplants; a knapsack
With plenty of Crisco;
Possible dates when the telephone rings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Athletic romances
With GSL rookies;
Vitamins, pizza,
And Mrs. Fields cookies;
The feeling of wholeness a new lover brings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

If the clap strikes,
If the rent hikes,
If I'm looking bad,
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so sad.

Part III The Leatherman

Constantines, Warlocks,
And bare-chested contests;
Being top honcho
In man-to-man conquests;
Harnesses, arm bands, suspension chain slings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Life in the fast lane;
Maneuvering the Harley;
Runs to the River
With bike buddy Charley;
Black 501's, studs and golden cock rings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

A new Mr. Drummer
And chaps with bare asses;
Gallons of beer
During benefit bashes;
The Barbary Coasters Award Show that swings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Decked out in the skins
With the men at the Eagle;
Rock & roll; drugs that
You might not call legal;
Masculine, muscular volcanic flings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the hair thins,
When the bike spins,
When my buddy's mad,
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so sad.

Part IV The Establishment Gay

Key West and Rio
And jaunts to Fire Island;
Big, brassy show tunes
By Merman and Streisand;
Butterfield auctions of porcelain Mings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Wardrobe by Bashford
And facelift by Ristow;
A Bill Baldwin penthouse;
Herb Caen's San Francisco;
The kind of wine cellar affluence brings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Balanchine, Tosca,
And Tiburon lunches;
Chargebacks, accountants,
And stock market hunches;
Coke for that star trip on gossamer wings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

Best buddy status
With Junior League ladies;
Nouvelle Cuisine
And, of course, the Mercedes;
A charming male model who ardently swings;
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the Dow falls,
When the boy palls,
When I drop the lad,
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so sad.

POLITICS

(Continued from page 13)

that he finds Belli a very "competent, articulate woman." When asked if he would endorse Belli over Marks, Roberti sounded like he was in no rush to defeat Marks, who often votes with the Democrats in Sacramento; Roberti replied to the *California Journal*: "I always support Democrats, but how specific I will get I have to contemplate that as we go down the line. It's obvious that Marks and Johnson (a Republican-turned-Independent) are important factors in running of the House." Sources close to Marks are hopeful Roberti will leave this race alone.

Enola Maxwell and College Board member John Riordan are chairing a \$100 dinner for supervisorial candidate John Wahl at Raggs Restaurant on 4th Street May 19. • *Hustler* publisher Larry Flynt has been ordered to appear in Roanoke, Virginia, to face a \$45 million libel suit filed by the Moral Majority's Jerry Falwell, who says he was libeled in a "fake ad" that said he had an incestuous relationship with his mother. Flynt's lawyers say the ad was "done in fun."

One of the hottest Washington rumors has HUD Secretary Sam Pierce, a Black Republican, as a prospect for the Attorney General's spot if, as expected, Ed Meese's name is finally withdrawn. • Still looking for someone to blame for her husband's disastrous 1980

defeat, Rosalynn Carter told ABC's "Good Morning America" show last week that Ted Kennedy was one of the causes. Carter said, "I thought that once he saw that he could not win he would try to help the party, because it was important to keep Reagan out of the White House. Instead he tore the Democratic Party to pieces. He should have quit; he was a sore loser." • Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy and Congresswoman Sala Burton head the list of VIPs giving the party on May 23 at the Green Room to benefit Lia Belli's campaign and officially kick off her election effort for the state Senate.

A big crowd and a good party expected on Castro Street Sunday, May 20 (noon to 6 p.m.) to celebrate what would have been Harvey Milk's 54th birthday. •

• Proving once again they know how to raise big bucks, the Municipal Elections Committee of L.A. (MECLA) cleared over \$200,000 at their big Saturday night fundraiser where Connecticut Senator Christopher Dodd, Massachusetts Rep. Gerry Studds, Jerry Brown, Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy, and scores of other big name politicians appeared. • And in Maine a party platform calling for Gay rights (a first in that state), unlimited access to abortions, and other liberal issues was ratified by the state's Democratic Party at their convention last weekend. ■

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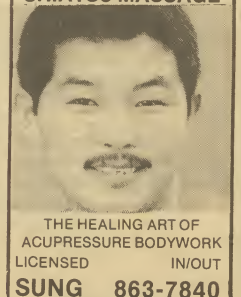
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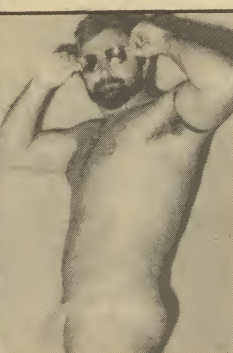
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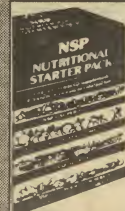
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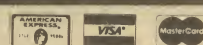
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